



Ukrainian elders prevent robbers snatching pension

RIYADH (AFP) — A group of elderly Ukrainians in Saudi Arabia prevented robbers from snatching their pension money on Tuesday.

Britain starts crime-busting group run by law

LONDON (AFP) — A group of 12 children are helping the British police fight crime by acting as 'buddies' to young offenders.

Refugee women seat

AMMAN (AFP) — A group of 12 women are helping the Jordanian police fight crime by acting as 'buddies' to young offenders.

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Refugee women seat

Arafat's plane makes an emergency landing

CAIRO (AP) — The plane carrying Palestinian President Yasser Arafat made an emergency landing Wednesday after its pilot discovered a problem in one of the engines. The Palestinian leader's plane had taken off from Al Arish airport in Egypt's Sinai Peninsula on its way to Gabon when the pilot discovered a problem in the left engine. He asked for permission to land at Cairo international airport, airport officials said. The plane was not damaged and no one was hurt, said the officials, who spoke on customary condition of anonymity. Palestinian leader Arafat often uses the airport at Al Arish across the border from the Palestinian-run Gaza Strip. Mr. Arafat's Lear Jet, which carries a Moroccan flag, made the landing at 1 p.m. local time, they said. Another plane was expected to take President Arafat and his delegation to Gabon, the officials said.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
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Volume 21 Number 6682

AMMAN THURSDAY-FRIDAY, November 6-7, 1997, RAJAB 6-7, 1418

Price: Jordan 200 fils



OFFICIAL POLL RESULTS ANNOUNCED

Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid (left) announcing Wednesday the official results of Tuesday's general elections noting that the voting process was conducted smoothly and that voters exercised their constitutional right in a free and fair atmosphere. The Jordan Times Wednesday published the results of the elections in the various districts but there was a mix up in the names of the winners in the Balqa district. The official results as announced by the minister of interior Wednesday were as follows: Mohammad Rifa'at, Ghaleb Zubi, Mahmond Kharabshah, Abdul Razzaq Ensur, Salameh Hiyari and Hashem Abdullah Wakied. The two Christian seats were won by Samir Kassar and Fawzi Tu'eimeh. The minister was introduced by Mazen Armouti (right), the official spokesman for the elections (photo by Yousef Allan)

King congratulates new members of Parliament

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Wednesday sent a cable to newly-elected members of the 13th Parliament congratulating them on their success in the general elections. King Hussein called them to do their best to serve their country and their people's interests.



Brotherhood: 'Weak Parliament' will foster opposition role outside Lower House

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Muslim Brotherhood said on Wednesday that the outcome of parliamentary elections that yielded a center-right majority to the Lower House, will foster a powerful role for the opposition outside the Lower House as a result of the emergence of "a weak Parliament."

he said. "Although the government was keen on bringing to Parliament all political shades, victorious opposition deputies are not representatives of 'institutionalised opposition.'"

Jordan's new House to focus on domestic woes, not Israel

AMMAN (AFP) — Pro-government independents who retained a strong grip on Parliament in legislative elections are expected to focus on fixing domestic ills rather than floundering ties with Israel.

U.N. envoys seek to defuse crisis with Iraqi president

BAGHDAD (AFP) — U.N. troubleshooters delivered a message for President Saddam Hussein here Wednesday aimed at persuading him to lift a ban on U.S. arms inspectors, who were barred from weapons sites for a third straight day.

Monday. Iraq, blaming the U.S. for prolonging the seven-year economic embargo in force since the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, is demanding a "short and reasonable" timeframe for the sanctions to be lifted.

HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN Privatisation of Jordan Telecommunications Company

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan invites international telecommunications operators to participate in a tender to make a strategic investment in the Jordan Telecommunications Company ("JTC"). JTC is the operator of Jordan's public telecommunications network and will have exclusive authorisation until 31 December, 2002 to operate international, domestic long distance and local basic voice telecommunication services in Jordan.

The tender is open to telecommunications operators who had either telecom services revenues in 1996 of at least US\$ 3.5 billion equivalent, or at least 3.5 million access lines in service at December 31, 1996. An Information Memorandum will be made available to potential strategic investors who have signed the confidentiality agreement.

- All enquiries should be referred to the Financial Advisors:
- Export and Finance Bank Investment Banking Group
Issam Al Ajlani St. Shmeisani
Amman - Jordan
Tel: +(962-6) 694-250
Fax: +(962-6) 692-062
- Merrill Lynch International Global Communications Group
Ropemaker Place
25 Ropemaker Street
London EC2Y 9LY
Tel: +(44) 171-867-4877
Fax: +(44) 171-578-0634

Palestinians say no progress from negotiations with Israel in U.S.

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian National Authority (PNA) officials said Wednesday that there had been no progress in negotiations with Israel this week in Washington and they blamed the U.S. for letting Israel avoid its obligation to carry out further troop withdrawals from the West Bank.

of bickering over the agenda for the meetings. The PNA want the negotiations to focus on the agenda agreed upon a month ago: their demands that Israel go ahead with long-delayed troop withdrawals in the West Bank and freeze Jewish settlement construction to allow the start of accelerated negotiations on a final peace agreement.

said the Palestinian side would continue to insist that the top priority of the talks be getting Israel to carry out the further troop withdrawals and to halt the expansion of Jewish enclaves in occupied territories.

security work discreetly from behind closed doors at the main terminal. The Palestinians also want to be allowed to go ahead with infrastructure work on the Gaza seaport while pursuing negotiations on security arrangements at the facility, a demand rejected by Israel, the paper said.

2 Home & Middle East News

Jordan Times, Thursday-Friday, November 6-7, 1997

AQABA



Ziad Shweikh - Muslim seat. Former deputy in the 11th Parliament.

ZARQA



Nu'man Ghweiri - Muslim seat. Bani Hassan.



Mohammad Khalaileh - Muslim seat. Bani Hassan.



Mikhlaf Zawahereh - Muslim seat. Bani Hassan.



Adnan Mirai - Muslim seat. Born in Aqaba, Nablus, 1944. Obtained BA in Arabic literature from the Arab University in Beirut. Worked for petrol firms. Al Sukhneb Municipal council member. Independent centrist.



Bassam Haddadin - Christian seat. Born in Ma'an. Completed secondary education in Zarqa. A leader of the Jordanian Students' Movement while studying abroad (1970-1976). Former deputy in 11th and 12th Parliaments. Jordanian Unionist Democratic Party (JUDP). Leftist.



Mohammad Abu Alim - Muslim seat. Former deputy in the 11th and 12th Parliaments. Former minister of state under the government of Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker. Independent Islamist.

TAFILEH



Mansour Murad - Circassian seat. Born in Amman, 1950. Studied in Baghdad University. Majored in Law and Political Science. Enrolled in Palestinian Resistance in 1967 and an active force in the Jordanian national movement. Leftist.



Mohammad Oran - Muslim seat. Born in Tafleeh, 1941. BSc in medicine from St. George's Hospital in London. Served in the Jordan Armed Forces for three years. Former council member of the Greater Amman Municipality. Member of the Royal College of Physicians in the U.K. Physician at the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company. Secretary general of the Arab Land Party, a leftist-centrist movement.

MAFRAQ



Abdul Karim Dughmi - Muslim seat. Born in Mafraq, 1955. Obtained BA in law at the American University of Beirut. Former minister of state, labour, municipal affairs and justice. Former deputy in 11th and 12th Parliaments. Former president of the Lower House Judiciary Committee. Centrist.



Abdullah Akaileh - Muslim seat. Born in Tafleeh. Obtained a BA in management from the University of Jordan in 1975. MA and PhD from the University of Southern California in 1978 and 1982, respectively. Former Islamic Action Front deputy in the 11th and 12th Parliaments. Independent Islamist.



Nawwaf Khawaldeh - Muslim seat. Former deputy in the 11th Parliament. Independent.

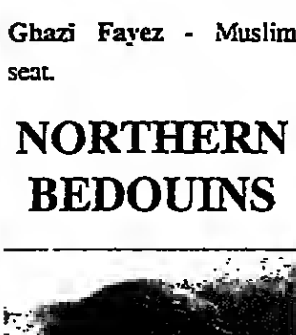


Sudki Shebatat - Muslim seat.

CENTRAL BEDOUINS



Saleb Jbour - Muslim seat.



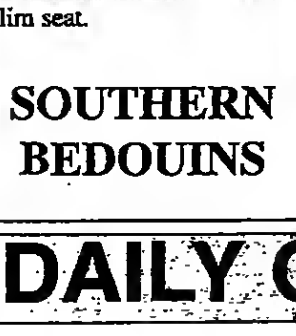
Ghazi Favez - Muslim seat.



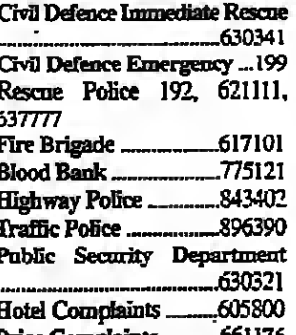
Sa'd Hayel Srour - Muslim seat. Born in 1947. Obtained BA in civil engineering from Riyadh University in 1970. Worked for the Amman Municipality and in several Saudi companies until 1981. A member of the National Consultative Council. Former minister of water and irrigation in the government of Mudar Badran, former minister of public works and housing in the governments of Taher Al Masri and Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker (1991). Former Lower House speaker of the 12th Parliament. Independent centrist.



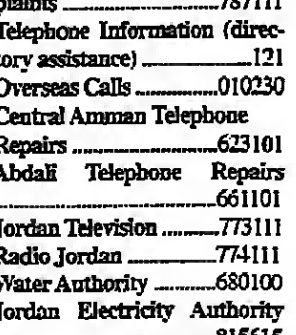
Deffallah Kueibir - Muslim seat.



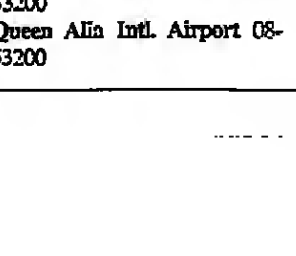
Fawaz Zou'bi - Former deputy in the 12th Parliament.



Ridha Haddad - Christian seat. Centrist.



Fawaz Zou'bi - Former deputy in the 12th Parliament.



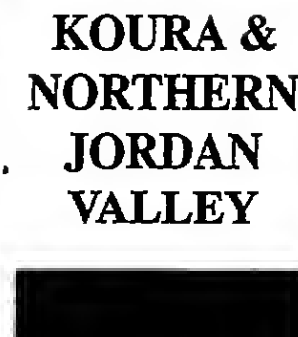
Fawaz Zou'bi - Former deputy in the 12th Parliament.



Abdullah Jazi - Muslim seat. Former minister of state in the government of Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker and former minister of post and telecommunications.



Ghazi Obeidat



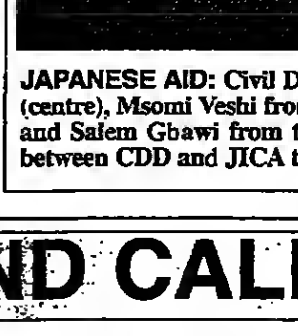
Mahmoud Kharabsheb - Born in Salt in 1950. Obtained a BA in public administration from the University of Jordan in 1973. A BA in political science in 1979, and a BA in law from the University of Jordan in 1993. He worked as an intelligence officer for 12 years, including intelligence department director, in Zarqa, Jerash, Ajloun, and Ruweished.



Abdul Razzaq Ensour - Muslim seat. Former mayor of Salt and former minister of public works in the government of Sherif Zeid Ben Shaker. Centrist.



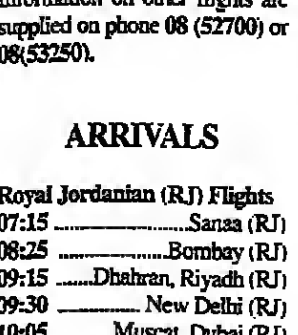
Mohammad Raafat - Muslim seat. Muslim cleric from Baqa'a Refugee Camp. Independent Islamist.



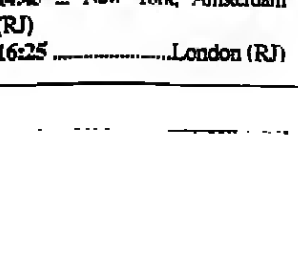
Fawaz Zou'bi - Former deputy in the 12th Parliament.



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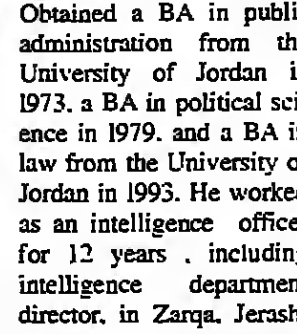
Fawaz Zou'bi - Former deputy in the 12th Parliament.



Hashem Wakid - Muslim seat. Independent.



Ghaleb Zou'bi - Muslim seat. Retired police general and lawyer.



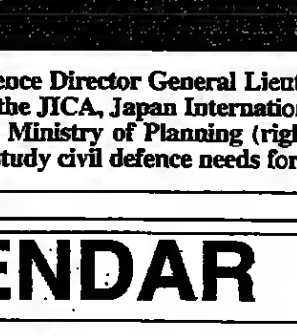
Samir Kavar - Christian seat. Born in Salt, 1934. Obtained MSc in agricultural machinery engineering from Kansas State University in 1961 and a BSc in agricultural engineering at the University of Arizona in 1959. Former minister of water and irrigation and transport. Former deputy in the 11th and 12th Parliaments. Centrist.



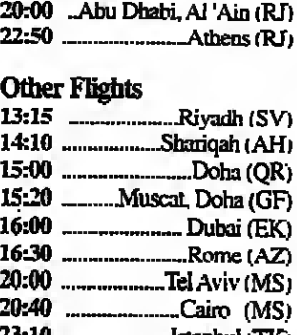
Fawzi Tueimeh - Christian seat. Born in Fuheis, 1945. Holds BA in arts from University of Jordan and MA and Ph.D. in psychology from a U.S. university. Former deputy in the 11th and 12th Parliaments. Centrist.



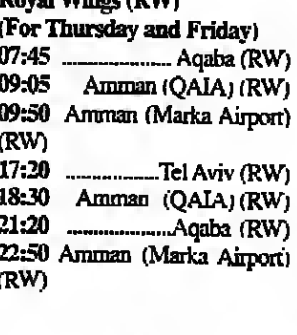
Fawaz Zou'bi - Former deputy in the 12th Parliament.



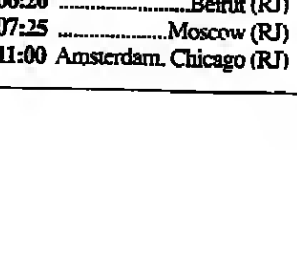
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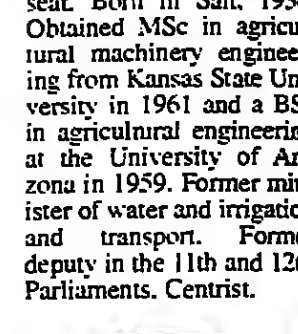
Fawaz Zou'bi - Former deputy in the 12th Parliament.



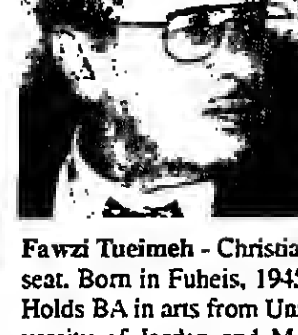
Hashem Wakid - Muslim seat. Independent.



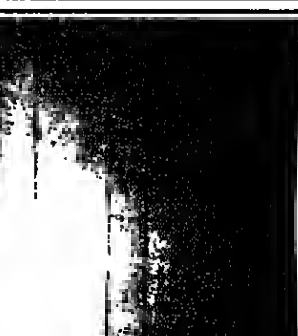
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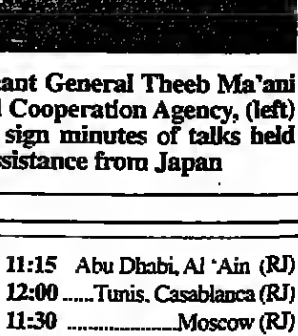
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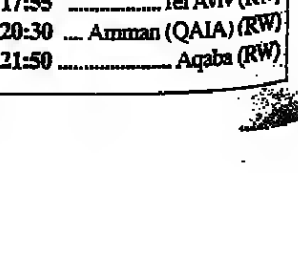
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Fawaz Zou'bi - Former deputy in the 12th Parliament.

JORDAN TELEVISION

773111-19
PROGRAMME TWO
14:10...New Kids on the Block
14:30...My Little Fairy Tale
15:00...America's Funniest People
15:30...He Shoots, He Scores
16:00...National Geographic
16:30...The Boy From Andromeda
17:00...French Programmes
19:00...News in French
19:15...French Programmes
19:30...News Headlines
19:35...Trivial Pursuit
20:00...Parenthood
20:30...Lois and Clark - Superman
21:10...Oprah Winfrey Show
22:00...News in English
22:30...Feature Film: "Implicated"
23:59...Music Show

PRAYER TIMES

04:33...Fajr
05:52...Sunrise
11:19...Dhuhr
14:20...Asr
16:47...Maghreb
18:06...Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Sweilkh, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church Tel.
632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation
Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Amman International Church Tel. 5516245
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 688404
The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel. 675691
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology
Relative cold weather conditions will prevail with temperatures rising slightly, skies partly cloudy, and winds northeasterly moderate. In Aqaba, skies will be northerly moderate and seas calm. to active.

Amman 11/18
Aqaba 15/27
Deserts 09/21
Jordan Valley 16/26

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 17, Aqaba 27 Humidity readings: Amman 47 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY
AMMAN:
Dr. Nidal As'ad 751672
Dr. Khalid Klob 816715
Dr. Yusef Naze 75144
Dr. Issam Asmar 890304
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asema pharmacy 637055
Nairouth pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660
Najib pharmacy 847632
IRBID:
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr 276852
Al Quds pharmacy (-)
ZARQA:
Dr. Randa Shahin 995170
Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 617101
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity 644281/6
Ajleah Maternity 642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
Shmeisani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845845
Al-Muasher Hospital 66727/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990
IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital

(02)27275
Ibn Al Nafes Hospital
(02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital
(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.
Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
07:15...Sanaa (RJ)
08:25...Bombay (RJ)
09:15...Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)
09:30...New Delhi (RJ)
10:05...Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10:05...Beirut (RJ)
10:15...Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
11:15...Colombo, Dubai (RJ)
14:45...New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
16:25...London (RJ)

(02)27275
Moscow (RJ)
Kuwait (RJ)
Athens (RJ)
Bangkok, Calcutta (RJ)
Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
Athens (RJ)

Other Flights

13:15...Riyadh (SV)
14:10...Sharjah (AH)
15:00...Doha (QR)
15:20...Muscat, Doha (GF)
16:00...Dubai (EK)
16:30...Rome (AZ)
20:00...Tel Aviv (MS)
20:40...Cairo (MS)
23:10...Istanbul (TK)
23:30...London, Beirut (BA)
23:35...Laraca (CY)

Royal Wings (RW)

(For Thursday and Friday)
07:45...Aqaba (RW)
09:05...Amman (QAIA) (RW)
09:50...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
17:20...Tel Aviv (RW)
18:30...Amman (QAIA) (RW)
21:20...Aqaba (RW)
22:50...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:20...Beirut (RJ)
07:25...Moscow (RJ)
11:00...Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)

11:15...Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
12:00...Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)
11:30...Moscow (RJ)
12:05...Kuwait (RJ)
12:10...Paris (RJ)
12:15...London (RJ)
12:20...Athens (RJ)
19:35...Laraca (RJ)
20:10...Cairo (RJ)
20:30...Jeddah (RJ)
23:00...Jakarta (RJ)
23:00...Abu Dhabi, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

Other Flights

00:35...Amsterdam (KL)
03:00...Athens (OA)
06:40...Beirut, London (BA)
08:00...Beirut (ME)
11:20...London (BA)
14:45...Riyadh (SV)
15:00...Algiers (AF)
15:55...Doha (QR)
16:20...Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
17:00...Muscat, Dubai (EK)
17:30...Rome (AZ)
21:20...Tel Aviv (LY)
21:40...Cairo (MS)

Royal Wings

(For Thursday and Friday)
06:45...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
08:15...Aqaba (RW)
09:30...Amman (QAIA) (RW)
16:45...Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
17:55...Tel Aviv (RW)
20:30...Amman (QAIA) (RW)
21:50...Aqaba (RW)



1997 Parliamentary Elections Profiles



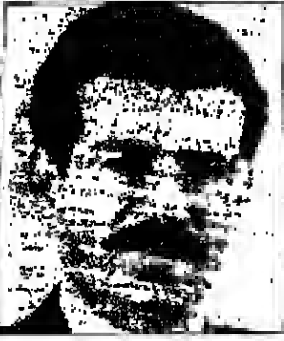
AMMAN 1st



Rashed Barayseh - Muslim seat. Born in Amman, 1951. Degree in law from the University of Jordan. Currently practising law. Founder of Al Hashmi Al Shamali Club.



Khalil Atiyeh - Muslim seat. Born in Amman in 1958. Obtained a BSc in Civil Engineering from Ein Champs, Cairo, in 1981. Currently vice president of a private Enterprise and member of Amman's District Council. Head of the Local Committee for the Abadi Area and Head of Legal Committee in the District. Centrist.



Hamada Faraaneh - Muslim seat. Columnist at Al Dustour.

AMMAN 2nd

Abdul Majid Aqtash - Muslim seat. Former Madaba deputy in the 12th Parliament.



Mohammad Al Kouz - Muslim seat. Born in 1950. Obtained a BA in literature and a higher diploma in management and education planning. Twenty years of experience in teaching, a member of the board in Al Wihdat Club.



Mohammad Thweib - Muslim seat. Born in Bethlehem, 1941. Obtained BA in Arabic Literature from Beirut University. Former minister of state for Palestinian affairs, education and parliamentary affairs. Former deputy in the 12th Parliament. Former member of Al Watan Party, a centrist movement. Worked in education for 24 years. Centrist.

AMMAN 3rd



Nayef Mowla - Circassian seat. Born in Wadi Seer in 1949. Obtained BSc in Civil Engineering from Ankara University. Worked as assistant director of public works and as a construction engineer in the Directorate of Public Works. Former minister of supply in the government of Abdul Karim Kabariti. Former deputy in the 12th Parliament.



Ali Abul Ragheb - Muslim seat. Born in Amman, 1946. Obtained a BSc in civil engineering from the U.S. in 1967. Served in posts at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and in the Amman Municipality. Former president of the Contractors Association. Former minister of trade and industry and supply. Centrist.



Raad Al Bakri - Muslim seat. An engineer with the Amman Municipality.



Lutfi Barghouti - Muslim seat. Born in Palestine, 1937. Owns private sector import export business. Independent.



Ahmad Al Ajarmeh - Muslim seat.

AMMAN 4th



Birjes Hadid - Muslim seat. Born in Juweidh in 1936. Joined Royal Air Force in 1957. Attended aviation school in Egypt. Appointed as a member in Amman's Greater Municipality in 1985.



Hamad Abu Zeid - Muslim seat.



Mohammad A. Hdeib - Muslim seat. Born in Amman, 1960. Obtained a BA, specialised general medicine from Romania, and currently has a family practice. Amman Municipality council member, municipality director of the Tla' Al Ali, Khaldi and Um Al Sannaq areas. Independent centrist.



Ahmad Oweidi Abbadi - Muslim seat. Former deputy in the 11th Parliament. Worked for many years in the police. A graduate of Jordanian universities with a PhD in Political Science from a British university. Author of a number of books. Centrist.



Assaf Al Assaf - Muslim seat. Born in Amman, 1936. BA in Military Science from Muta University. Retired brigadier general in the army. Since his retirement in 1984, he has served as a go-between for local tribes in matters related to arranging marriages and resolving blood feuds.



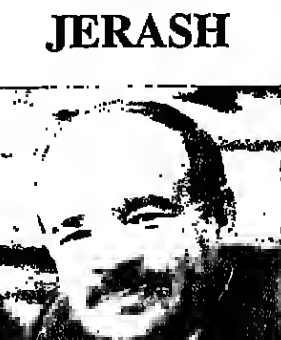
Muir Sobar - Circassian seat. Born in Wadi Seer in 1949. Obtained BSc in Civil Engineering from Ankara University. Worked as assistant director of public works and as a construction engineer in the Directorate of Public Works. Former minister of supply in the government of Abdul Karim Kabariti. Former deputy in the 12th Parliament.



Ali Abu Rbeha - Muslim seat. Engineer. Bani Hani-da.



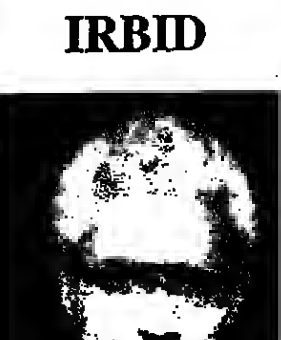
Nashaat Hamarneh - Christian seat. Former Iraqi Ba'athist. A graduate of Damascus University Medical School. Head of the Public Health Centre in Madaba. Leftist.



Mifteh Ruheimi - Muslim seat. Former deputy in the 12th Parliament. Centrist.



Riadh Othman - Muslim seat. From Jerash refugee camp. Born in Qalqityeh, 1945. Member of voluntary societies and cooperative organisations in the Jerash area. He owns a transport company and manages farmland with his family.



Abdul Razzaq Tbeishat - Muslim seat. Born in Irbid, 1939. Obtained a BA in medicine from Istanbul University. Worked for the Jordan Armed Forces and as a general practitioner in Irbid with the municipality before he was elected as mayor of Irbid several times. Former minister of municipal and rural affairs and the environment. Independent Islamist.



Mohammad Bataineh - Muslim seat.



Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh - Muslim seat. Born in Sarih, 1939. Holds BSc in pharmacy from the American University of Beirut. Served in several posts at the Ministry of Information. Former mayor of Amman, Former minister of communications, health and higher education. Former deputy in the 11th and 12th Parliaments. Centrist.



Amjad Majali - Muslim seat. Born in Karak, 1946. Former assistant chief of protocol, special advisor to King Hussein. Served at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Former ambassador to Bahrain, Cyprus, and Greece. Retired. Independent centrist.



Aayed Adhayleh - Muslim seat. Presently an agricultural engineer. Worked in Jordan Radio and Television Corporation. Retired. Independent centrist.



Sami Khasawneh - Muslim seat.



Kamel Al Omari - Muslim seat.



Raji Haddad - Christian seat.



Riyadh Sarairah - Muslim seat. Worked in the Department of Labour in Karak. Retired. Independent centrist.



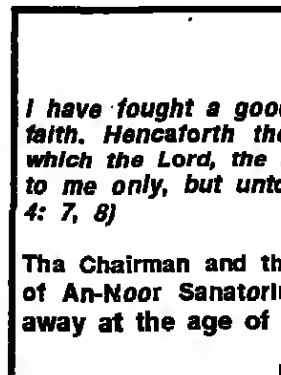
Abdul Hadi Majali - Muslim seat. Born in Karak in 1934. Obtained BSc in Civil Engineering from Baghdad University. Completed advanced courses in engineering at the Royal College of Defence Studies. Former minister of public works and former 12th Parliament deputy. Former director general of Public Security Department. Former ambassador to U.S., 1981. Former chief of staff for operations in Armed Forces. Secretary general of the newly-formed National Constitutional Party (NCP), a centrist movement.



Mansour Ben Tarif - Muslim seat. Born in Madaba, 1939. Obtained BSc in agriculture in 1961 and an MA in economics in 1963 from the American University of Beirut. Served at the Agricultural Credit Corporation from 63-66, then as deputy director of the corporation until 1982. Former minister of post and communications and former deputy in the 12th Parliament. Centrist.



Abdullah Zureiqat - Christian seat. Former deputy in the 12th Parliament and former army officer. Retired.



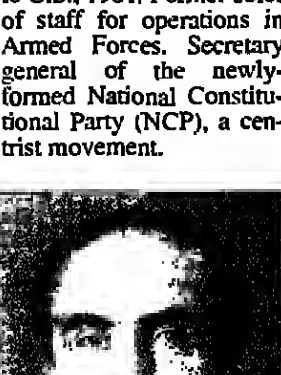
Mohammad Al Badri - Muslim seat. Heart surgeon. Former president of the Educational Club of University Graduates.



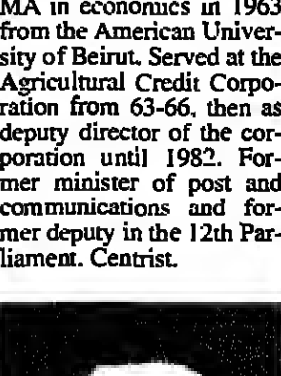
Nazih Ammarin - Christian seat. A doctor in the Jordanian Armed Forces until 1989. Former deputy in the 12th Parliament.



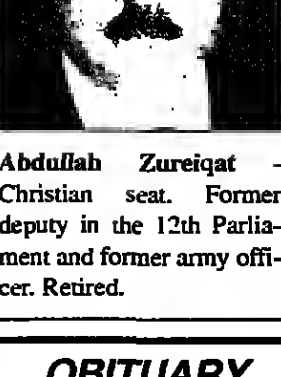
Ahmad Abu Agala Khat-tab - Muslim seat. Former director of the Ma'an Agriculture Department. Retired.



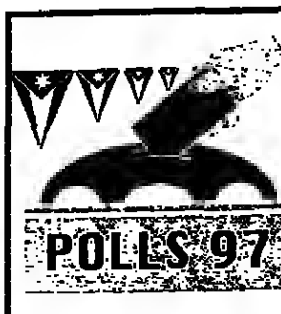
Walid Awajan - Muslim seat. PhD in Islamic Law (Sharia) from London. Former professor of Sharia at Muta University. Served as imam in the Jordan Armed Forces and retired with the rank of colonel.



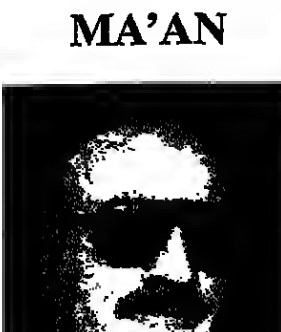
Nayef Abu Hilaileh - Muslim seat. PhD in Sharia from the University of Jordan and former headmaster of the Palestine School in Ma'an. Retired.



Nayef Abu Hilaileh - Muslim seat.



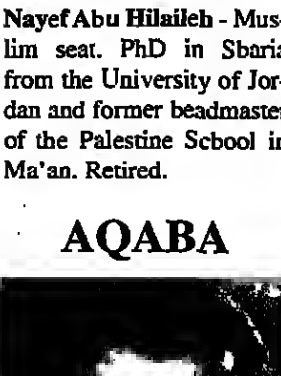
Nazih Ammarin - Christian seat. A doctor in the Jordanian Armed Forces until 1989. Former deputy in the 12th Parliament.



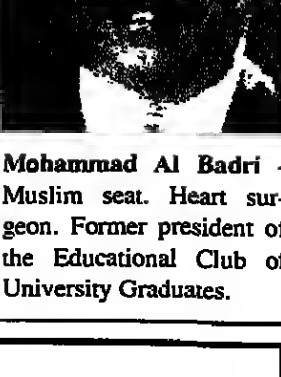
Ahmad Abu Agala Khat-tab - Muslim seat. Former director of the Ma'an Agriculture Department. Retired.



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Nayef Abu Hilaileh - Muslim seat. PhD in Sharia from the University of Jordan and former headmaster of the Palestine School in Ma'an. Retired.



Nayef Abu Hilaileh - Muslim seat.

OBITUARY

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing. (2 Timothy 4: 7, 8)

The Chairman and the members of the Board of Directors and the staff of An-Noor Sanatorium for Chest Diseases announce the passing away at the age of 81 of

DR. ELEANOR SOLTAU
Founding doctor of the Sanatorium

The funeral service and burial will be conducted on Friday, 7th of November, 1997 at 2:30 p.m. at the An-Noor Sanatorium in Ma'raq.

Condolences will be received at the An-Noor Sanatorium, Ma'raq, on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the 7th, 8th and 9th of November.

Cable address:
P.O. Box 14
Ma'raq

*The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away.
May the Name of the Lord be praised.*

British envoy praises China for restraint over Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AFP) — Britain's departing consul-general in Hong Kong Wednesday praised China for exercising "enlightened restraint" in the former British colony since its resumption of sovereignty in July.

In a marked contrast to the fractious tone of Sino-British exchanges before the handover, Francis Cornish said Hong Kong had emerged from the transition in "good shape."

Mr. Cornish, who leaves here Saturday at the end of his posting, told reporters China had observed the Joint Declaration with Britain on Hong Kong's future "with great care."

"We welcome the enlightened restraint they (China) have shown," he said.

"We have been watching developments in Hong Kong very closely," he added, observing that daily life in the territory remained largely unchanged. "You can say what you like and print

what you like in the press."

However, he pledged Britain would not be afraid to speak out at any infringement of the Basic Law, the mini-constitution for post handover Hong Kong. The British government "cannot be happy" with changes to the electoral system masterminded by the government of chief executive Tung Chee-Hwa for the first post handover elections next year, he said.

Adjustments to the voting system introduced by the last British governor of Hong Kong, Chris Patten, will disenfranchise thousands of voters in polls for a replacement for the current China-picked assembly.

"We want to encourage Hong Kong to move down the path of universal suffrage as far and as fast as it can," said Mr. Cornish.

Hong Kong's way of life had been underpinned by British good government and an environment in which business could flourish, he said, adding that

despite relinquishing control over the territory, Britain remained a "big player" in Hong Kong.

"We want Hong Kong to look at the United Kingdom as Hong Kong's natural partner in Europe," he said, underlining Britain's role next year as European Union president.

Earlier, in one of his final official duties, Mr. Cornish signed two accords clearing the way for the transfer of fugitives and prisoners between Britain and Hong Kong.

Hong Kong's Secretary for Security Peter Lai, who also signed the pacts said they demonstrated the territory's commitment to fighting international crime and the importance of the rule of law in the territory.

Mr. Cornish described them as an "important weapon in the fight against international crime." The first agreement allows fugitives to be returned to face justice in their homeland provided their alleged

offence is viewed as a crime by both peoal systems.

Under the second, consenting convicts can be sent home to complete jail terms if their crime is contrary to both British and Hong Kong law.

Mr. Cornish was the first British consul-general to Hong Kong following the territory's July 1 return to Chinese rule. Before that he served as Britain's senior trade commissioner in the territory.

In the early 1980s, he served as deputy private secretary to Diana, Princess of Wales, who died Aug. 31 after a Paris car crash.

His replacement, Sir Andrew Burns, a former British envoy to Israel, is expected to arrive in Hong Kong before the end of November.

Mr. Burns took part in Sino-British talks on Hong Kong's new airport at Chek Lap Kok when he was the assistant undersecretary (Asia) from 1990-1992.



A Vietnamese man stands amongst the rubble of a house destroyed by a typhoon which lashed Vietnam's southern coast over the weekend. Latest figures show that Typhoon Linda has killed at least 176 people, left thousands missing and destroyed 134,800 houses (Renter photo)

Typhoon devastation mounts in Vietnam and Thailand

HANOI (AFP) —

Bureaucracy and a lack of funds held up Typhoon Linda relief efforts Wednesday as the death toll in Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand went past 260 with thousands still missing.

Dozens more bodies of fishermen caught in one of the worst storms to hit the gulf of Thailand this century were washed up.

But three days after the peak of the storm, Vietnam's efforts to help devastated provinces in the Mekong Delta were frustrated by red tape and a lack of money.

Officials are stretching meagre resources to 11 provinces where 235 people, mostly fishermen, perished in Typhoon Linda. More than 2,500 are still reported missing.

Cau Mau province at the southern tip of Vietnam is most urgently in need of assistance. There are 65 reported dead and more than 2,000 people missing.

"It's a nightmare," one resident told AFP by telephone. "There's a huge loss of human life and the storm has ruined our culture and

ability to fish."

With hundreds of thousands of homeless and widespread damage, estimated at tens of millions of dollars, local officials and relief agencies have only tens of thousands of dollars at their disposal.

"We would like to launch an international appeal for help, but we cannot do that without government approval first," said a representative from the International Federation of the Red Cross in Ho Chi Minh City.

"We have absolutely no funds to provide," he said, adding that government permission for an international appeal was not automatic.

The Vietnamese Red Cross plans to distribute just 145 million dong (about \$11,000) worth of food, medicine, tents, blankets and medicine, an official in Ho Chi Minh City said.

Other non-governmental organisations (NGOs) complain that Vietnam's Byzantine bureaucracy severely restricts their movement. They may only

travel to provinces in which they have existing projects.

Oxfam United Kingdom and Ireland (Oxfam U.K.) said it had sent one worker to Tra Vinh province, but had to refuse an appeal from neighbouring Soc Trang province where it is not authorised to travel.

Vietnam has deployed helicopters and ships, but only been able to recover 209 people, the Central Committee for Floods and Storm Control in Hanoi said.

Because of difficulties in reporting, the official death toll by the committee is 105 dead, 454 missing and 1,530 boats sunk. However another 2,140 people are still unaccounted for.

Thousands of fishing boats are believed to have been caught when winds in excess of 120 kilometres an hour and waves exceeding 3.5 metres swept through from the South China Sea in the east.

In Cambodia, the toll rose to at least 23 dead with more than 200 still missing, authorities said.

Twenty bodies were washed ashore on Puolo

Wai Island about 100 kilometres southwest of the southern port of Sihanoukville, according to officials. More than 45 boats were capsized in Cambodian waters.

Thai officials confirmed that at least three Thais were killed and 13 injured in their jurisdiction and that 100 people were still missing. Other reports, however, speak of at least seven dead.

The worst hit province was Prachuab Khiri Khan, where some 30 fishing boats had sunk, 624 houses were damaged and 950 people left homeless, the Interior Ministry said.

The typhoon was reported to have passed over Thailand and was in the Andaman Sea off Burma, the ministry said.

The toll from Typhoon Keith in Japan rose Wednesday to five after a 60 year old man drowned in high waves on the southwestern island of Shikoku in Kochi prefecture, police said.

Four people drowned in Kochi and the western prefecture of Wakayama Tuesday in the same storm.

Dostam, Malik troops clash in northern Afghanistan

KABUL (AFP) — The troops of rival anti-Taliban alliance warlords Abdul Rashid Dostam and Abdul Malik have clashed in northern Afghanistan, with Mr. Dostam loyalists gaining key ground, sources told AFP Wednesday.

Independent sources said in three days of sporadic but sometimes heavy clashes, Mr. Dostam troops have advanced into Mr. Malik's stronghold of Faryab province, situated in the northwest of the country.

"Details are limited, but the fighting has been occasionally heavy and Dostam troops have advanced into Faryab and beyond Andkhoy," a source who requested anonymity reported.

Andkhoy is situated 180 kilometres west of the alliance held city of Mazar-i-Sharif and in the north of Faryab province. Mr. Malik's traditional stronghold.

No further details on casualties or the amount of ground which has changed hands in the past days were immediately available.

A Pakistan-based private news service Afghan Islamic Press

(AIP) Tuesday reported about a dozen fighters from the two sides were killed and another 40 wounded after clashes erupted in Jozjan and Faryab provinces late Monday.

A spokesman for Mr. Malik dismissed the reports of Mr. Dostam's men gaining ground as "baseless propaganda," but no comment was available from either the Dostam camp or other alliance members.

In May, Mr. Malik joined with the Taliban to oust his boss and ex-Communist General Dostam before switching back to the alliance and ending the Taliban's five-day stay in the northern capital.

But in the midst of a major Taliban assault on the alliance stronghold of Mazar-i-Sharif last month, Mr. Dostam made a dramatic comeback from exile and immediately set about consolidating his position in the northern fiefdom.

The battles are the second set reported between the two powerful figures in the northern alliance since Mr. Dostam returned from exile one month ago to regain his lost power.

Mazar-i-Sharif — the only Afghan city held by the alliance — is now under the joint control of a number of alliance factions, but Mr. Dostam has regained the loyalty control of much of the surrounding areas and key towns around the city.

Although Mr. Malik is reported to be still based in the town of Maimana in Faryab province and rhetorically committed to the alliance, analysts say the apparent revenge-inspired advance by Mr. Dostam leaves his future and the political setup of the alliance in doubt.

With Mr. Dostam and Mr. Malik in the fractured alliance are two rival Shiite Muslim factions and the ousted Kabul government of deposed president Burhanuddin Rabbani and military chief Ahmad Shah Masood.

The Taliban control around two-thirds of Afghanistan including the capital Kabul, and have vowed to impose a pure Islamic state on a country gripped by nearly 18 years of civil war.

U.S. rejects Australian plea on greenhouse gas cuts

CANBERRA (AFP) — U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott Wednesday dismissed Australia's claim to exemption from uniform targets for cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

arguing that every country can claim "special circumstances."

But Mr. Talbott, here for talks with key ministers, backed Australia's demand that any agreement at next month's Kyoto greenhouse summit had to include developing as well as developed nations.

"The catastrophic fires, particularly in Borneo and Sumatra, demonstrate that these are problems that do not respect international boundaries," he said.

"It's a pretty vivid reminder that a developing country, in this case Indonesia, both for its own case, and for that of its neighbours, needs to be part of the solution if it's not going to be part of the problem."

Australia claims its special circumstances as a major energy producer entitles it to an exemption from uniform reduced greenhouse gas emission targets.

"Every country has special circumstances," Mr. Talbott said after talks with Environment Minister Robert Hill. "There's a lot of competing interests in the United States as well."

But Mr. Talbott said Australia and the United States were not too far apart on the issue.

U.S. President Bill Clinton last month pledged Washington would stabilise its emissions of greenhouse gases at 1990 levels by 2008-2012 while the European Community wants even bigger cuts to apply across the board to all developed nations.

Australia has yet to state its position but has rejected both the U.S. and European proposals as too harsh, and is instead arguing for differentiation between nations.

Mr. Hill told reporters Australia would use the U.S. attempt to set its own target as a precedent.

"I have no doubt that the United States would like to see its target as the global uniform target, but so be it," Mr. Hill said.

"What we said is the way in which the United States looked at its national interest, it looked at what it could afford... should be the way in which each of us is approaching the issue."

Researchers closer to test for mad cow disease

LONDON (R) — Scientists said Wednesday they are a step closer to developing a diagnostic test for mad cow disease and its human equivalent.

Researchers at Prionics AG, based at the University of Zurich, said they have discovered an antibody for the mutated prion protein that causes the brain-wasting illness.

"There are two forms of the prion protein — the normal form and the disease-specific form. There are many antibodies that react with the normal form, however none until now which only reacted with the disease-specific form," Bruno Oesch said in a telephone interview.

Until now, cases of Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) in animals or Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) in humans could only be confirmed by examining brain tissue from victims. The antibody, which attaches to the mutated

prion, could allow doctors to test for the disease at an early stage by isolating the tiny mutated prions, their aim is to develop a diagnostic blood test.

In a report in the science journal Nature, Mr. Oesch described how he and his colleagues isolated the antibody, 15B3, that can distinguish between the good and bad brain prions.

"The question is whether you can inject animals or humans who have the disease and whether it is going to recess," Mr. Oesch added.

"Our primary goal is to have a diagnosis as early as possible and then once you have that you can think about therapy."

CJD is an uncommon but rapidly progressive form of dementia in humans that normally occurs between the ages of 40 and 65. In 1996 scientists discovered a new strain of the deadly disease that hits young people. So far 21 people have

been diagnosed with the new CJD variant.

Two studies released in September confirmed that BSE causes the new strain of CJD and that eating infected beef is the likely cause.

Scientists believe an epidemic of BSE in British cattle that resulted in a European Union ban on beef products last year was caused by giving the animals protein feed which included the remains of sheep infected with scrapie, a similar brain disorder.

"It will be interesting to see whether 15B3 will be able to neutralise infectivity and thus be a potential therapeutic reagent... a prion test for living humans or animals is conceivable," Mr. Oesch added.

Stanley Prusiner, a professor of neurology and biochemistry at the University of California San Francisco, won the 1997 Nobel prize for medicine for discovering the tiny prion.

French journalist calls for the release of Vietnamese dissident

HANOI (AFP) — French journalist Patrick Poivre d'Arvor launched an appeal Wednesday for the release of Vietnamese writer and journalist Doan Viet Hoat, one of Vietnam's best known political prisoners.

Speaking at a meeting of Francophone journalists in Hanoi, he said: "Please allow me to humbly but forcefully request my colleagues and the Vietnamese authorities to do everything possible to secure the soonest possible release" of Mr. Hoat.

"It is a matter of a country's honour as well as of a profession," Mr. Poivre d'Arvor, the anchor of private French television station TF1 told journalists at a meeting of the International Union of Journalists of French Language Press in Hanoi.

Mr. Hoat was arrested in 1990 for having participated

in the publication of a periodical "Freedom Forum," which advocated democracy, and in 1993 he was given a 15 year prison term. The dissident had already spent 12 years in prison between 1976 to 1988 without having been tried.

Tuesday, Mr. Hoat, a 54 year old intellectual, who languishes in Thanh Cam reeducation camp in Thanh Hoa province south of Hanoi near the Lao border, received the Golden Plume Award for Press Freedom of the World Association of Newspapers meeting in Istanbul.

The association representing more than 15,000 publications worldwide also appealed for "the immediate and unconditional release" of Mr. Hoat.

During her visit to Vietnam in June, U.S. Secretary of State

Madeleine Albright also called for his release. Mr. Poivre d'Arvor also brought up the case of Nguyen Hoang Linh, former Vietnamese editor of the weekly "Enterprise" newspaper who was arrested last month in Hanoi for having written about official corruption within the Vietnamese Department General of Customs.

Mr. Poivre d'Arvor, who has championed Mr. Hoat's cause within the framework of activist group, Reporters without Borders, also mentioned "hundreds of Algerian journalists who had paid the greatest possible tribute" in their struggle for press freedom.

Some 150 journalists from 39 countries are meeting in Hanoi until Friday to discuss the theme of economic news, in advance of the Francophone summit on Nov. 14-16.

At least 3 bodies found at home of pastor

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Human remains found at a house belonging to Andras Pandy, the pastor suspected of murdering six members of his family, came from three different bodies, investigators said Wednesday.

"We have not completed the analysis of all the remains but for the

moment it seems there were at least three bodies," said Brussels' prosecutor Hilde Vandevoorde.

The magistrate said it had still not been possible to identify the decomposed in light of Mr. Pandy's refusal to cooperate with the investigation.

Investigators had previously only confirmed that at least two bodies were buried under the house owned by the Hungarian-born pastor.

Arrested on Oct. 16, Pandy is suspected of having murdered two ex-wives, Ilona Sores and Edit Fintor and four of his eight children.

Kissing is allowed, former Miss Universe says

CARACAS (R) — Teenagers in the Caracas district run by former Miss Universe Irene Saez can breathe a sigh of relief: Kissing is allowed.

Ms. Saez, Venezuela's most popular politician, gave her verdict Tuesday in response to reports that police in the Chacao municipality where she is mayor were arresting teenagers in public squares for overt displays of affection.

"I have ever considered that an act as noble as expressing tenderness for another person through a kiss can be described as an immoral act," Ms. Saez said in a statement.

"Chacao is open to love but not to obscene and excessive acts which are counter to good morals and proper manners."

Ms. Saez, 35, who leads opinion polls for December 1998 presidential elections by a comfortable margin, owes much of her popularity to a successful reign as mayor of Chacao, known locally as "Irene-Land."

Her drive to flush out petty crime has converted the leafy Plaza Francia in the heart of Chacao into a haven for young couples escaping the city's chaotic streets.

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FBI agent testifies in Oklahoma bombing trial

DENVER (R) — A retired FBI agent described Tuesday at the trial of accused Oklahoma City bomber Terry Nichols investigators' efforts to collect and catalogue the tonnes of concrete and metal buried for blocks by the blast.

A key piece of the evidence they gathered was a 110-kilogram rear truck axle that led agents to identify Timothy McVeigh, former agent James Elliott testified in the case against Mr. Nichols, McVeigh's alleged accomplice.

Prosecutors say Mr. Nichols and McVeigh plotted the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Oklahoma City federal building that killed 168 people to avenge what they held were intolerable abuses of power by the U.S. government.

The explosion littered blocks of downtown Oklahoma City with rubble, prompting defense attorney Ron Woods to question the FBI's ability to salvage and secure it as evidence for the high-profile trial.

Questions about the FBI's handling of evidence and techniques employed at the agency's crime lab in Washington played a crucial role in the trial last spring of Mr. McVeigh, who was arrested after the bombing with traces of explosives on his clothes.

Mr. McVeigh's attorneys tried hard to discredit the FBI's handling of the physical evidence against their client, as Mr. Nichols' attorney did in this case.

Mr. Nichols faces the same 11 conspiracy and murder charges as Mr. McVeigh, who was convicted on June 2 and sentenced to death.

Under questioning, Mr. Elliott, a newly retired FBI agent who was in charge of overseeing the evidence in Oklahoma City, conceded the

difficulty of handling the 3,150 kg of debris that agents analysed.

FBI agents swept but did not disinfect a nearby warehouse for storing the evidence, he said.

"It was still pretty dirty," he told the defence attorney, who often reminded the jury that he too was once an FBI agent.

Mr. Nichols, clad as usual in a blue blazer, button-down shirt and wire-rimmed glasses, watched impassively.

The jury of seven women and five men peered curiously as prosecutors carried the twisted and blackened truck axle into the courtroom.

The axle belonged to a Ryder truck rented by Mr. McVeigh in the explosion, the axle hurtled 172 metres and crushed a Ford Fiesta parked outside a nearby apartment building.

Mr. Elliott's testimony followed that of several bombing survivors, who recounted their terror as they fled the collapsed building.

Susan Hunt, of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), struggled to keep her composure as she talked about her 35 colleagues who died in the explosion, more than 500 other people were injured.

Ms. Hunt recalled making a list on the morning of the blast, trying to account for the 124 HUD employees in the building.

"It was my job to take care of these people," the former office manager said. "I tried," she said as her voice broke.

Fourteen of her co-workers were so badly injured they have been unable to return to work, she added.

Testimony in the Nichols trial began Monday in federal court in Denver before judge Richard Matsch, who also oversaw the Mr. McVeigh trial.



Republican New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, under a shower of confetti, waves to supporters gathered at the New York Hilton Hotel after winning reelection to a second four-year term of office (Reuter photo)

U.S., Japan discuss global landmine treaty

TOKYO (AFP) — The United States and Japan ended two days of talks here Wednesday over Tokyo's decision to sign a global treaty banning anti-personnel landmines, the U.S. embassy said.

"Discussions provided for a cordial and frank exchange of views and both sides decided to continue with this useful dialogue," said an embassy statement.

Tokyo announced last month it would sign a global treaty in Ottawa on Dec. 3 to prohibit the use, export, production, development and stockpiling of landmines.

Washington has refused to sign the treaty, arguing it would jeopardise some of the 100,000 U.S. troops stationed in Asia, particularly the 37,000 in South Korea.

The bilateral talks were aimed at discussing the implications of Japan's joining the Ottawa Convention banning landmines on U.S.-Japan military cooperation, the embassy said.

The United States, which has 47,000 troops stationed in Japan, was also undertaking similar talks with other allies who may sign the anti-landmine convention, the statement said.

"Although U.S. security concerns preclude us from joining other states in signing the Ottawa Convention in December, our policy is that by 2003 the United States will no longer use anti-personnel landmines outside Korea," it added.

Republicans make strong inroads in U.S. elections

WASHINGTON (R) — Republicans made strong inroads in the 1997 U.S. elections Tuesday, winning the New Jersey and Virginia governor's seats, the sole congressional race in New York's Staten Island and the crown jewel of the 220 mayoral races — New York City.

The only cliff-hanger among the top four prizes was New Jersey Republican Gov. Christine Whitman's slim victory over Democratic opponent James McGreevey.

Mr. Whitman, who eked out a 47 to 46 per cent win, or just over 20,000 votes with more than 2.2 million cast, did not claim victory until the early hours of Wednesday, waiting until Mr. McGreevey conceded the election.

Republican Jim Gilmore was comfortably elected governor of Virginia in the only other governors' election and Rudy Giuliani was solidly reelected mayor of New York City. Republicans also easily won the night's sole congressional race in New York's Staten Island.

Americans also voted in referendums on a series of life and death issues in

Tuesday's balloting.

In Oregon, voters decisively endorsed an assisted-suicide law, despite an expensive campaign spearheaded by the Catholic church to repeal the statute.

In neighbouring Washington state, a measure that would have required trigger locks for handguns and safety courses for their owners was defeated overwhelmingly, with the initiative going down by more than a 3-1 margin in early returns.

And in Houston voters backed affirmative action, with 54 per cent opposed to a proposition that would have ended racial and gender preferences in city contracts and hiring.

In the most dramatic contest of the night, Ms. Whitman barely held off Mr. McGreevey. As the count proceeded, the two stayed neck-and-neck with Ms. Whitman only pulling ahead at the very end.

"This is truly a wonderful victory because it does speak to all we have been doing for the state of New Jersey. This state's a tough state," Ms. Whitman told cheering supporters in an

apparent reference to her near-loss. "We want a lot."

Ms. Whitman, a Republican moderate, was once seen as a rising star in her party after she cut state income taxes by a third.

But Mr. McGreevey attacked her for causing a corresponding increase in local property taxes and failing to curb the state's high auto insurance rates.

Analysts said many Republican conservatives, angered by Ms. Whitman's support of abortion rights, stayed home or supported libertarian Murray Sabrin, who won 5 per cent of the vote.

In Virginia, Mr. Gilmore ran a disciplined campaign and kept the focus on his promise to abolish an unpopular property tax levied annually on the value of cars and trucks.

He defeated Democratic Lt. Gov. Don Beyer, leading a Republican sweep of all three of the state's top elected positions and gaining control of the state senate.

Republican National Committee Chairman Jim Nicholson, who came to Richmond to share in Mr. Gilmore's triumph, said the party would study the

victory and apply its lessons elsewhere.

"The results in Virginia are going to be a model we are going to follow and study in the 1998 elections," he said.

In New York City, Republican Giuliani, a feisty former prosecutor who has presided over a steep drop in crime, swept to a second term as mayor against a disorganised Democratic challenger Ruth Messinger in what is usually one of the strongest Democratic strongholds in the country.

With 96 per cent of the votes counted, Mr. Giuliani led Ms. Messinger by 56 per cent to 42 per cent.

In his victory speech Mr. Giuliani vowed to fight illegal drugs in New York City the same way that he tackled crime. "New York City is the greatest city in North America" he told supporters.

In the sole congressional election Tuesday, Republican Vito Fossella comfortably beat Democrat Eric Vitaliano. The win in a seat the Republicans have held for the past 17 years ran the Republican majority in the House of Representatives back to 22.

Russian senate approves chemical weapons convention

MOSCOW (AFP) — The upper chamber of the Russian parliament Wednesday ratified the 1993 International Chemical Weapons Convention, five days after it was approved by the lower house, or Duma.

The convention bans development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons.

Senators voted unanimously to ratify the convention which now has to be signed by President Boris Yeltsin to

come into law.

Russia has the world's largest arsenal of chemical weapons — 40,000 tonnes — much of it stocked in poor conditions. Iran Wednesday became the 103rd country to formally ratify the treaty, signed in Paris in January 1993. Russia will be the 104th.

The collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 officially brought an end to Russia's production of chemical weapons, although the British

journal Jane's Defence Weekly stated in April that Russian scientists were still trying to develop new weapons.

Russia had to ratify the convention by Wednesday in order to participate at The Hague's conference on chemical weapons scheduled Dec. 1 to 5.

The deputies hesitation in ratifying the convention is mainly due to the heavy cost of the destruction of Russia's arsenal, estimated at \$5.5 billion.

A member of the international relations committee of the upper chamber, Mikhail Prussak, said Wednesday that Russia does not have enough money to even maintain its stock, which alone will cost \$250 million over the next 10 years.

The Russian government said it would spend 50 billion rubles (\$833 million), mostly foreign money, in 1998 to begin the destruction of its chemical weapons.

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Flaws in the law

ANALYSING THE results of the Tuesday's parliamentary elections requires a multifaceted approach before final conclusions can be reached. The first observation is on the percentage of Jordanians who actually voted. Assuming that 80 per cent of eligible Jordanians picked up their voting cards, the fact that only 55 per cent of them actually cast their ballots is indeed troubling. This suggests that only 40 per cent of Jordanians took part in this year's elections. Of course this relatively low turnout is first and foremost the fault of voters themselves. No one takes the blame for this low participation in the Jordanian democracy than the people who have long called for an effective parliamentary democracy but failed to prove their true concern by staying away from the polling booths. It is also the responsibility of the opposition especially the Muslim Brotherhood which had declared their intention to boycott right from the start.

The second major failure is that of women to win not even a single seat. Seventeen female candidates ran and the number of women who actually voted was at least on par with that of men. Why women were deserted by members of their own gender is something that calls for appraisal so that the necessary conclusions can be drawn. We regard the absence of women from Parliament as a serious blow for equality in our society.

The third failure is that of the apparently bankrupt political parties. When only two of the dozen candidates of the National Constitutional Party, the most organised political party in the country after the Brotherhood, manage to win then we have every reason to question whether the Kingdom has really made any serious inroads into party politics. It is not comfortable to think that the elections were conducted mostly on personal, family and tribal levels. We can safely conclude that voters did not choose their representatives on the basis of national issues. Not even minority groups campaigned on minority concerns. Neither the Circassians nor the Christians have had minority agenda.

This leads us to probably the most advertised failure, that of Toujan Faisal to get reelected. The irony in her loss is the fact that she had run as an Arab, rather than as a Circassian. Jordanian she would have been easily elected. Ms. Faisal scored the second highest vote in her district (well over 4,000) but still came home a loser. Two newly-elected parliamentarians from Ms. Faisal's district, namely Raad Bakri and Lutfi Barghouti won with less than 1,500 votes each. This is a serious flaw in the electoral law and an element of unfairness in the way it determines winners and losers. What adds insult to injury is the fact that Ms. Faisal could not have run as just an Arab Jordanian even if she wanted to, which begs the question of how we are going to determine in the future who is and who is not a Circassian or Chechen especially when there is a considerable number of mixed marriages. Are we going to conduct genetic scrutiny on one stage or another to determine the ethnic origin of people or are we going to adopt a special law on the question?

We therefore call for the immediate repeal of minority quotas because it is senseless and void of justification. The fact that minority representatives are electable by non-minority voters makes a mockery of the entire exercise to grant minorities special treatments. The final chapter on the Nov. 4 elections will readily call for a general overhaul of current legislation with a view to rectify the serious shortcomings and the obvious elements of unfairness in it.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

Al Arab Al Yawm's Yahya Shuqair accused the governments of Jordan of dominating the legislative and executive branches since the creation of the Kingdom. The executive authority has been enacting laws at will, controlling the work of Parliament and imposing on it its opinions on all matters, internal and external, said Shuqair. A prime example, he said, is the government's introduction of the temporary law on press and publications without securing approval of parliament. According to Shuqair, this temporary law enabled the government to silence 13 weekly tabloids, drawing by this action strong protest from the Jordan Human Rights Organisation and political parties and unions in Jordan. The writer said the government has also enacted the one-person, one-vote election law, dealing a heavy blow to the legislature which was not consulted on the matter. Furthermore, he said, 120,000 repeated names appeared in the voter lists for the 1997 Parliamentary elections according to the government's statements which also said that the extra names were omitted. Shuqair said there is no way of finding out whether many other thousands of invalid names were still on the voter lists when the voters went to the polls on Nov. 4.

Al Dustour's Hind Tunisi said that by pressuring Arab countries to attend the Doha conference, the U.S. has succeeded in causing divisions among them over the question of participation. The Arab states have rightly demanded that unless real progress has been achieved in the peace process and the implementation of the Madrid and Oslo accords, they would not take part in the conference which is to be attended by Israel, said Tunisi. She said the individual Arab countries have also succeeded in that they stood by their principles and are refusing to attend the coming conference. It is realistic to conclude that any improvement in the economic situation among the countries of the region will be naturally followed by favourable developments in the political and social domains, according to the writer. She said the only beneficiary of the Doha economic meeting will be Israel whose economy will thrive at the expense of the Arab countries' markets.

View from Academia

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubeh

The good new parliament and the good ole daily problems

JUST AS citizens throughout our region expect the outcome of peacemaking to have a direct, positive bearing on their daily lives, citizens throughout the Kingdom, rightly or wrongly, expect the outcome of parliamentary elections also to have a direct, positive bearing on their daily lives. This is especially true, and crucial, for the large sections of our major cities which we (at times endearingly, at times sympathetically, and at times pejoratively) refer to as the "popular" areas, as well as for the rural and desert regions.

The other day (it was a Friday morning), I paid a visit to Marka El-Janoubieh, a neighbourhood in Eastern Amman which epitomises (has for many years and decades epitomised) the image of a "popular" area faithfully and accurately. Time has stopped for a long time in that neighbourhood: the same good old shabby faces, shabby shops, shabby houses, shabby cars, shabby sidewalks, shabby roads, shabby cats, shabby peddlers, etc. This particular neighbourhood (and others like it) is much like a village inside a city (hens, pigeons, sheep, goats and donkeys are not uncommon).

As I took a right turn at the traffic light on Al-Mahatta road just prior to the old train station, I found myself suddenly driving through what looked like a river (by our standards that is, for the amount of water on the road was equivalent to that you find in the Yarmouk River on any average day). I immediately slowed down. Remembering that it did not rain that morning nor the night before and glancing at the cloudless sky, I came instantly to the disappointing (but not unexpected) conclusion that I was wading in sewerage water. What else do you expect to find in this part of town? Most of the vehicles were driving at a low speed, but some (pick-up trucks, lorries, and buses) were driving fast splattering other vehicles, as well as pedestrians who were searching for a footpath in the mess.

When I got to the said neighbourhood (I had not been there for months), the familiar scenes were all there, as if bursting out of my memory: some children were playing soccer in the middle of the road onto which manholes were leaking sewerage water, some were rummaging garbage containers, some were dumping garbage next to the container (being too small to throw the garbage into the container), some were throwing stones at cats, some

were sitting on the side-walk drinking soda and eating chips, some were putting something on the road waiting for vehicles to crush it, etc. Those who wish to see children should go to the neighbourhoods of Eastern Amman: the streets are full of them. Children, stray cats, shabby vehicles of all types and sizes and sewerage water.

That morning there was, in addition to the river of sewerage water I ran into when I turned right at the traffic light, there was another interesting surprise: a huge tanker-trailer was trying to park. It had blocked the road, and I found myself waiting behind two other cars which were waiting for the trailer to open the way. After several attempts, during one of which it hit the phone cable and almost cut it off, it crammed itself behind the garbage containers. The driver, clean-shaven and with shining hair (he had most probably just been to the barber) got out of it, and peacock-like (as if stepping out of a Mercedes or a Jaguar) walked happily and with pride in the direction of a couple of kids, shook hands with them, kissed them elegantly on the cheeks, and handed them a plastic bag. Most probably an uncle coming to visit — with his tanker-trailer, of course.

I could tell you more details, but you get the picture.

One thing, however, I forgot to tell you about: the banners with which the streets were filled, carrying all sorts of slogans about: liberation of Jerusalem, Arab unity, advancement of democracy, freedom of expression, choice of the best candidate, education for all, and so on and so forth.

Clearly, there was a sharp contrast, in many ways, between what the banners over the streets and alleys were saying and what was going on in the streets and alleys themselves. One could argue, of course, that inhabitants of the popular areas have their own political and ideological aspirations, like every human being on this green earth and like fellow human beings in the more privileged areas of the country, and one may in fact argue that, in many ways, they are more politicised than others and that they may care about Jerusalem more than about their daily bread. This is true. But these inhabitants have pressing daily problems which should be taken into account.

There was not one single slogan about bettering or improving the daily lives of the inhabitants of this area. I wish there had been one slogan about putting an end to

the sewer leakage, to the need for playgrounds for children, to the need of stopping large, monstrous vehicles from parking amidst residential homes, to the need for better streets and better sidewalks, to the need for cleaner restaurants and shops, to the need for peace and tranquillity, to the need for more services, etc.

Since 1989, the same banners and slogans have been hoisted and lowered, and the same problems continue to exist. Nay, the quality of daily life in these areas has been deteriorating. Hardly a day passes without sewer leakage. Admittedly, some development centres and some services have been opened, but they are due more to the efforts of governmental establishments than to those of conscientious parliamentarians.

The problem, in part, may be one related to the mentality of parliamentary candidates running in the name of these areas. Most of them, if not all, do not seem to understand that what these areas need more than anything is the betterment and improvement of the quality of daily life. Such ignorance on part of the candidates is reflected in the very slogans and banners they hoist. Had they felt strongly about their community problems, these problems would have found their way to their banners somehow. To most people living in these areas, a debate in parliament about sewer leakage may be 10 times more important than a debate about the Press and Publications Law.

Insensitivity, on part of the candidates, to the problems faced by people in these areas may be due to the fact that most candidates (this is particularly true of the previous elections) belong to political parties whose priorities go well beyond the daily needs of people: candidates who prefer to talk more about the need of the soul or spirit than those of the body and daily life or those who stress Arab unity and solidarity more than playgrounds for children or sewerage leakage.

In the absence of many candidates from the traditional "opposition" parties, however, will the good new parliament be different — i.e., in being more sensitive to and aware of people's problems of daily life? Time will only tell. Nevertheless, it has become apparent, and the drop in the turnout of voters may be in part due to this factor, that the quality of daily life in these areas must be given the highest priority.

Closure: The shape of things to come

By Peretz Kidron

PALESTINIANS COMPLAIN nowadays that their movements are far more constricted under the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) than they were under direct Israeli occupation. Not that the military regime allowed unrestricted travel: Palestinians passing through Israeli road-blocks suffered humiliation and time-consuming delays. But those irritants pale against the enormous obstacles currently placed on their movements, whether they are trying to get to another Palestinian controlled enclave or to Israeli-controlled areas B or C, or into Israel proper. "Closure" — once an extraordinary measure taken in response to particularly painful attacks by the Palestinian underground — is now a more or less permanent fact of life, confining most of the Palestinian population to a series of narrow ghettos.

The Israeli authorities justify the restrictions on "security" grounds, claiming that Israel's vulnerable population centres are best protected from potential terrorists when "cleansed" of all Palestinians, including those bearing legal passes: the implied assumption being the innocent majority may suffer, but that is a small price to pay for foiling the evil few with their bombs. The contention is convenient, easy to foist off on the world media, which obligingly clams up whenever "security" grounds are invoked to justify human rights infringements.

Few pause to recall that no single terrorist attack has ever been traced to a "legal" Palestinian, i.e. someone admitted into Israel with the proper papers. How then does Israeli security benefit from a blanket "closure" that banishes tens of thousands of such "legal" Palestinians? As no one poses the question, official spokesmen do not trouble to provide an answer beyond the blanket explanation of "pressure on the PNA to act against terrorists." Nor do they trouble to explain why Tel Aviv is protected by the infamous "internal closure" that denies a Palestinian from Ramallah permission to visit relatives in Nablus.

Those cruel absurdities are not the only reason to query the so-called security grounds behind the closures. The latter carry subsidiary provisions whose rationale is doubly mysterious. For example: severe restrictions or an outright ban on Gaza fishermen sailing to offshore fishing grounds. Allegedly this is to keep them from smuggling in arms or explosives — again, a compelling argument that serves officialdom well. But why is the ban invoked only when a closure is in force? Presumably, terrorists are perpetually on the look-out for a chance to smuggle in their murderous contraband; why then are the fishermen not grounded permanently? (Also, why are they free to market their meagre catch in the markets of Gaza, but strictly barred from sending shipments of fish to Hebron?)

Apart from live (i.e. potentially terrorist) Palestinians and their detectable fish, closures also apply to inanimate vegetables. When the barriers are in place, Palestinian farm produce is left to rot in the fields. Straight-faced security spokesmen point to the danger that those boxes of red-checked tomatoes — very popular on the Israeli market — may conceivably explode. But all goods

hailing from PNA-controlled areas undergo stringent security checks before being allowed into Israel: even when no closure is in force, produce is painstakingly unloaded from Arab trucks and stacked onto Israeli vehicles, making it very simple to check for illegal contents. Why then does closure also entail a total ban on agricultural shipments?

The list of incongruities is long, and the puzzle may have more than one answer. The professed purpose of closure is to arm-twist the PNA into crushing the Islamists. By extending restrictions to hurt all sections of the population — not merely workers employed in Israel — the screws are tightened further and the PNA presumably spurred to ever more vigorous pursuit of the opposition.

Long-term intentions

But is that all? As the closure becomes more or less permanent, there is growing suspicion that what is depicted as a temporary precaution in fact foreshadows the long-term design of the Netanyahu government. It may not comprise a detailed plan; Netanyahu and his lieutenants tend to shoot from the hip, without too much staff work or long-range thinking. But for that very reason, emergency measures often invoked with no more than a few minutes of desultory deliberation may reveal far more than the immediate alarm of

rather than emulate Yitzhak Rabin by taking that realisation to full recognition and a willingness to share the territory disputed, he prefers to salvage his tattered "Greater Israel" ideology with a damage-control strategy that gives the Palestinians a bare minimum, while leaving Israel holding all the trumps.

The government probably has no overall master plan, but its day-to-day decision, zig-zagging like the twists and turns in Netanyahu's thinking, are beginning to jell into a coherent design. The policy taking shape entails three-tiered "containment." In physical terms, the Palestinian population is to be contained within tiny enclaves. In political terms, Palestinian autonomy is to be contained to a minimum of powers and functions. In economic terms, the Palestinians are to be "contained" in a state of total dependency on Israel.

This economic containment is foreshadowed in the closures and their associated restrictions. Little short of all-out blockade, closure hinders the emergence of a viable Palestinian economy, whether by crippling traditional pursuits like farming or fishing, or stifling modern industry by a constant atmosphere of crisis. Sticking points in Israeli-Palestinian talks include persistent Israeli reluctance to sanction work on a deep water port in Gaza. The Israeli side of course claims "security considerations" (is that a Palestinian armada lurking over the horizon.

basic Palestinian needs, in return for handsome profits to Israeli employers and industries.

The joys of subjugation

Beyond serving Netanyahu's nationalist ideology, such a state of affairs fits in perfectly with the philosophy imbued with his schooling in the United States, which left him a fervent advocate of a free market economy on American or European lines. If that is indeed his model, the conclusions relating to the labour market are obvious: just as the U.S. economy relies heavily on cheap Mexican labour and Latin American markets for its products, and the Europeans foster similar relations with other Third World countries, Israel will have its captive gas-tarbeiter, the Palestinians.

Founding the new Israeli economy on a defenceless sub-class of poorly paid Arab labourers could be a godsend for Netanyahu. Such a structure would carry a variety of benefits, ideological and political, resting on a broad interest in the status quo. A large and affluent Israeli middle class would be aware that its prosperity depended on keeping the Palestinians in their confined cages; this in turn would create a large and influential constituency to support Netanyahu and keep him, and his allies, in power.

Such a strategy is particularly dangerous precisely because of the attractions it holds for various social and economic groups. Some professed "peaceniks" hitherto associated with the dovish opposition come from business circles intent on expanding profits in a more stable atmosphere. If Netanyahu's schemes prove equally lucrative, nothing will stop industrialists and financiers from swinging their support behind him. Other ostensible opposition elements, who bear their own brand of racism, would recognise the value of Netanyahu's programme in keeping non-Jewish undesirable out of sight as far as possible. As a practical programme, it could guarantee Netanyahu reelection in the year 2000. For all these reasons, the scenario sketched out here is a very real threat.

Israeli-Palestinian relations are bedevilled by countless differences and points of friction. Conflicts turning on opposing claims to the same territory are exacerbated cultural and religious differences. A long history of mutual hostility can only be aggravated by efforts to shove Palestinians into Bantustans, "autonomous" regions which are little more than glorified labour camps. The existing difficulties of setting bilateral relations on a peaceful track can only be redoubled by the glaring contrast in living standards. Coexistence between an affluent Israel and an impoverished Palestinian population could be no more than a pipe-dream. The world's North-South differences become doubly explosive when compacted into distances of a few miles, sometimes mere metres. Living standards at a 10:1 ratio do not make good neighbours, particularly when the affluent side enjoys all the attendant freedoms, while the economically deprived are simultaneously stripped of human rights and dignity.

Middle East International

Features

Th

First thing first

Brotherhood: opposition

Jordan's new on domestic

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blems

Society on the move

There were winners in other rings too

ALTHOUGH the parliamentary elections resulted in a major drawback for women, there is still hope. Last week at the Jordanian National Committee for Women, Amal Sabbagh, former director of the Regional Centre for Agrarian Reform and Rural Development for the Near East (CARDNE) became secretary general. Dr. Sabbagh brings with her several years of experience in governmental and non-governmental organisation posts. At CARDNE, she was director for four years. Earlier, Dr. Sabbagh was employed at the Ministry of Social Development in several positions, the last of which was as director of planning and monitoring. She obtained her BA in psychology from Beirut College for Women (now Lebanese American University), a Masters in educational counselling from the American University of Beirut, and a Ph.D. in social policy and administration from the University of Nottingham. As Secretary General of the JNCW, established in 1992 and chaired by HRH Princess Basma, Dr. Sabbagh has the weighty responsibility of activating the mandate of the committee as set by the Cabinet in 1996. Included in that mandate is the study of legislation and the drafting of laws affecting the status and advancement of women. By the look of things, she'll need more than just allies.

professor at the Jordan University for Science and Technology who shared the prize for contributions to applied mechanics with Ahmad Adel Qdair, an associate professor from Bir Zeit University; Riyad Abdullah Momani, associate professor at Yarmouk University, for his contributions to economics, finance and banking; Dr. Nabil Taleb Shawakfeh, professor at the University of Jordan, for his unique efforts in applied mathematics; and Dr. Rida Abdullah Shibli, associate professor at JUST, for his research in agriculture. Congratulating the winners at a ceremony were Shanan Foundation Chairman Abdul Majid Shoman, Director Ibrahim Izzedine, and University of Jordan President Dr. Fawzi Gharaibeh.

station." Sevan complied on Tuesday, but to no avail. Even his offer to reappear in women's garb did not secure him his first-time right to vote.

As no campaign strategies, Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid himself revealed to a reporter an election day that police in the 5th district of Amman caught some supporters of two candidates (who, you guessed it, eventually both won seats) distributing flyers to voters indicating that the candidates' most serious opponents in the race had withdrawn their candidacies. One of the opponents caught wind of the impropriety and swiftly made up his own flyers saying he was most certainly still a candidate. He still lost. But what of the distributing of false information incident? Well, faced with no law or precedent to punish the perpetrators, Mr. Rashid simply called the incident a joke.



Ensemble Incanto (photo by Erika Farnschid)

MUSIC — THE PERFECT PANACEA: Candidates, supporters, winners and losers, and all those still feeling the morning after symptoms of elections can find solace in the music of two European performing arts groups, presented by the National Music Conservatory/Noor Al Hussein Foundation in cooperation with the Italian embassy, the Goethe-Institut and the Ministry of Culture. On Saturday Ensemble Incanto of Germany brings young musicians Guido Schiefen on cello, Ralph Manno on clarinet and Liese Klahn on piano to the stage of the Royal Cultural Centre for a programme of music by Debussy, Poulenc, Schumann and Brahms. Then it's the Italian's turn with Quartetto D'archi Di Roma, featuring Vittorio Di Lotti on violin, Stefana Di Lotti also on violin, Aldo

Giavagnoli on viola, and Mino Chirivi on cello. The quartet will play on Tuesday, Nov. 11 at the RCC and again on Wednesday at Ruwaa Al Balqa for a dinner performance at Al Zuwadeh Restaurant. The group's repertoire includes pieces by Ricordi, Boccherini, Beethoven, Donizetti and Puccini.

Jennifer Hamarneh

OTHER WINNERS: While campaign managers, or the like, put in their last ditch efforts to garner support for their candidates, last Thursday the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation was the stage for some winners of another sort. Among the recipients of the foundation's annual award for young Arab researchers for the year 1996 were four Jordanians. They are Dr. Hazem Zoubi Zibdeh, a

art of the candidates, to the public these areas may be due to the fact that they are particularly true of the private sector, and that the public sector is often the one that is most responsible for the success or failure of the country. The private sector is often the one that is most responsible for the success or failure of the country. The private sector is often the one that is most responsible for the success or failure of the country.

When such a moment comes, we have to face the harsh reality of financial constraints. Very few of us are blessed with the grace of an unlimited budget, and so we start evaluating the importance of different upgrade possibilities. It is by no means a simple task.

The number of available options and improvement solutions is overwhelming, even for a humble home computer. Should we replace the CD-ROM with a faster one? Increase the hard disk storage capacity? Buy a faster modem? A faster Pentium CPU? A screen with higher resolution? A higher quality sound card? The new photo-capable color ink-jet printer? The list goes on and on.

Among these coveted multiple choices, the most obvious one often is neglected — the main memory. Increasing the size of a PC's main memory is the most sensible upgrade to start with. It is also the simplest and sometimes the least expensive. It is definitely the single upgrade that would give the computer the best possible "vitamin shot," and yet users

Brotherhood: 'Weak Parliament' will foster opposition role outside Lower House

(Continued from page 1)

The Cabinet traditionally resigns after a legislative election suggesting a possible reshuffle.

"It's possible there will be a Cabinet reshuffle or a change of government, we don't know yet," said Former Trade and Industry Minister Ali Abul Ragheb, who retained his Amman Third District seat.

Officials also said the make-up of the Senate, whose 40 members are appointed by King Hussein, could be under review.

King Hussein said he believed that the elections were "free and honest" despite allegations of vote-rigging and low participation.

Jordan's new House to focus on domestic woes, not Israel

(Continued from page 1)

Both deputies, in addition to six other former Brotherhood members (who contested the elections but did not fare well in the polls) were dismissed from the movement for having violated its leadership's decision to boycott.

The elections which were contested by 524 candidates, including 17 women, were boycotted by the Brotherhood and the IAF in addition to prominent liberal figures in the country in protest against what they saw as the lack of public freedoms.

Opposition groups had repeatedly cast doubts on the overall procedures of the elections that were overseen by the Interior Ministry and had forewarned of vote-rigging.

The pro-boycott group which is formed of nine opposition parties led by the Islamists, independent opposition personalities, prominent politicians and professional unions have agreed on a "National Reform" plan "to save

chip talk



doon't give it enough attention. Technical studies have shown that in most cases increasing the memory size improves a computer's performance more than replacing the CPU (central processing unit) with a slightly faster one. Which means that if you are using a Pentium 166 (P166) PC with 16 MB of RAM (memory), you would obtain better performance improvement by increasing the RAM size to 32 MB instead of replacing the P166 with a P200. Vendors of equipment and software usually try to recommend the minimum possible memory, for understandable marketing reasons. PC experts, however, estimate that you should at least double what is "recommended." A practical example: for Windows 95 under regular office use, anything less than 32 MB would handicap the machine. Unfortunately vendors would tell you that 16 MB is good and that even as little as 8 MB would do the job! It's scandalous. Again, install 32 MB at least, or even 64 if you can afford it, particularly if you browse the Internet. You will notice a significant overall improvement. If the programmes you run are oriented towards image or music processing, 64 MB becomes a minimum, 128 MB the truly recommended size and 256 MB the expensive option. It is only after having installed a reasonable amount of RAM that one should consider other upgrade options like a 17" monitor or similar flashy components.

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AMMAN

Arab Gulf countries haggling over tariff level

It is also facing a payment of nearly \$7.5 billion for 61 aircraft ordered by Saudi Arabian Airlines in 1995 from the U.S. manufacturers Boeing and McDonnell Douglas.

Because Oman's population of 2.2 million residents is increasing at a rate of 3.7 per cent per year, the highest growth rate on the Arabian Peninsula, and more than half of the population is under the age of 20, the country faces the worst potential unemployment problem in the region.

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye

Birthstone of November: Topaz — Tiger's Eye

[illegible]

Business & Finance

Daily Beat

A review of news from the Arabic Press

Jordan's textile exports depend on U.S. quotas on Far East sales

IN A working paper about developing textile exports to European countries, the general manager of the Jordanian textile company CJC said that exports of flannel shirts to the U.S. depend upon the quota that Washington imposes on Far East exports. The general manager, Samir Maqdash, expected Jordanian flannel shirt exports to the U.S. market to decline this year because Washington has eased the quotas on the volumes exported from Far East countries.

Mr. Maqdash said almost every Jordanian textile plant operated a production line to manufacture flannel shirts last year due to the restrictions that Washington imposed on the Far East products. Noting that the U.S., Europe and Russia are the most important markets for Jordanian flannel shirts, Mr. Maqdash stressed that Jordanian firms have to develop quality and to be quick in delivery.

The general manager also stressed the importance of supporting industries such as packaging and shipping to be more efficient and precise. He said that importers usually require high quality, low prices and suitable delivery time and, in this respect, Jordanians are considered the best foreign exporters.

Noting that production costs in Jordan are higher than in the Far East, Mr. Maqdash saw the possibility of lowering such costs by implementing advanced technology and calculated production plans as well as pricing and development systems. He said Jordanians lack the marketing talents and, as such, "marketing operations in Jordan are considered to be the weak points in the textile industry due to the lack of marketing strategies."

According to Mr. Maqdash, the textile industry employs more than 20,000 workers who represent about 20 per cent of the industrial workforce. The textile exports represent 4.71 per cent of total Jordanian exports, he pointed out.

He indicated that the total registered and invested capital in the textile industry amounted to JD11.66 million in 1997. The sector, he added, includes 1,143 firms but only 300 of those are big plants that employ 300 workers.

Mr. Maqdash estimated the working capital of all the firms to be about JD600 million. He said that exports of textiles and ready-made clothes have increased from JD34 million in 1994 to JD49 million in 1996. One-third of the textile exports and 16 per cent of ready-made clothes go to Arab countries, he concluded (Al Aswaj).

British membership of single currency would boost City of London — Brittan

BRUSSELS (AFP) — Early British membership of a single European currency would be a major boost to the City of London, the U.K., of all the potential participants, is perhaps the best-placed to reap the benefits of EMU, he said.

Early British membership would boost the City's role at the expense of Frankfurt and Paris, notably by creating an incentive for the European Central Bank to conduct a significant share of money market operations in London's liquid markets, Sir Leon Brittan argued.

The City would also be a conduit for non-EU investors, borrowers, and issuers to gain access to the euro area; EMU would reduce currency barriers to further consolidation of wholesale markets in London.

If the euro becomes a reserve currency, euro-denominated bond markets could double in size, with the City gaining a sizeable share of this, Sir Brittan said.

Meanwhile, fifty-seven per cent of Britons do not want their country to abandon the pound sterling and adopt the single European currency, according to a survey published in the Sun newspaper.

Thirty-two per cent of them want to take part in the euro while 11 per cent said they could not decide.

Forty-two per cent of those surveyed said Britain's economy would suffer if it joined the euro while 27 per cent thought it would benefit and 18 per cent said it would make no difference.

The figures support those of a poll published by the Financial Times which said 61 per cent of those questioned wanted to keep the pound sterling and only 15 per cent would accept the euro.

The remainder supported having both currencies.

The Labour Party which came to power in a landslide election victory in May have pledged to hold a referendum for the euro if they decide to enter. Countries can decide against joining the euro under a special clause in the European Union treaty.

The government has not yet made its position known but it has taken a more conciliatory approach toward its European Union partners than its Conservative predecessor.

But it has virtually ruled

out admission to monetary union when the single currency is launched, saying there were too many obstacles such as differences between Britain's economic cycles and those in the rest of Europe.

London must announce before Dec. 31 whether it wants to join the first wave of membership planned for Jan. 1, 1999.

In Washington, U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers said Europe's conversion to a single currency will be a landmark occurrence but control of the dollar will remain in U.S. hands.

"We do not believe there is any intrinsic reason why the preparations for a single currency that have hitherto been announced should trigger any significant rise in volatility," Mr. Summers said in testimony prepared for the Senate Budget Committee.

"At any rate, over time, any such increase should subside as markets become accustomed to the new environment," he said.

Mr. Summers said, in fact, that it was perfectly possible that adopting the euro will make the currency markets more stable.

Foreign investors return to AFM

By Issam Qadmani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Foreign investors Wednesday concluded three major deals at the Amman Financial Market (AFM) to buy shares in the banking, industrial, and housing sectors as well as in the phosphate and potash industries.

However, these investors concluded a medium deal to sell shares in the Jordan Cement Factories Company amidst speculations that demand for purchasing Housing Bank shares was on the increase.

Mr. Daoud Qishta, a broker at AFM, said foreign investors have been active in the AFM this week, adding that the focus of foreign investors was on the shares of the industrial and banking sectors.

He expected the demand for such shares to increase next week.

However, local brokers concluded deals on behalf of foreign investors. The deals included the purchase of shares from the Housing Bank worth JD729,100, shares from the Potash company worth JD175,000 and shares from the phosphate company worth JD175,000, according to the middlemen.

These companies had the highest circulation of shares in Wednesday's dealings which totalled JD1.8 million. However, the standard overall price index lost 21 per cent and the ratio of the winning to the losing shares was 12 to 23.

The industrial sector led with a total dealing amounting to approximately one million dinars. One company has made profits while 13 companies have sustained losses.

REUTERS The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	ESP
US Dollar	1.7250	0.5878	1.4078	122.51	1.4005	1688.00	1.8448	5.7775	
DE Mark	0.5797		0.3462	0.8162	71.42	0.8118	978.06	1.1269	3.3501
GB Sterling	1.6729	2.8870		2.3563	205.46	2.3429	2828.32	3.2547	9.6754
CH Franc	0.7103	1.2244	0.4240		87.09	0.9942	1199.35	138.04	4.7814
JP Yen	0.0082	1.4072	0.4874	1.1484		1.1424	13.78	158.59	4.7141
CA Dollar	0.7140	1.2275	0.4236	1.0006	1.14		1203.48	1.3636	4.1127
IT Lira	0.0006	1.0202	0.3533	0.0833	1380.83	0.8285		11.50	3.4181
FR Franc	0.5142	0.8871	0.3078	0.7240	82.97	0.7209	868.24		2.8704
FR Franc	0.1731	0.2984	0.1033	0.24364	21.18	0.2423	33.64	33.6400	

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	ESP
US Dollar	0.7080	3.7500	0.3770	3.6395	0.3030	3.6724	1535.00	3.4005	
Jordan Dinar	1.4124		5.2895	3.1405	0.4280	5.1870	2168.08	4.8030	
Saudi Riyal	0.2667	0.1888		0.1005	0.0808	0.98	409.33	0.9068	
Bahrain Dinar	2.85	1.8780	9.8469		0.85	0.8037	8.74	407.16	0.9189
Qatar Dinar	0.2748	0.1945	1.0304	1.0304		0.0833	1.01	421.76	0.9343
Kuwait Dinar	3.3003	2.3366	12.3782	1.2442	12.01		12.12	5096.01	0.9343
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.1928	1.0211	1.0211	0.9910	0.0825		417.98	0.9280
Lebanese/1000	0.65	0.4612	2.4430	0.2456	2.2718	0.1874	2.3924		2.2153
Egyptian	0.2941	0.2082	1.1028	0.1109	1.0703	0.0891	1.0800	451.40	

Energy									
Oil	19.11	19.18							
Brent	19.11	19.18							
WTI	20.84	20.81							
Bonny	19.11	19.18							
Dubai	18.55	18.00							
UL Gas	180.00	182.00							

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	FRF	ESP
SA Riyal	0.2667	0.1888	0.1005	0.0808	0.98	0.98	409.33	0.9068	
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.1928	1.0211	1.0211	0.9910	0.0825		417.98	0.9280
KW Dinar	3.3003	2.3366	12.3782	1.2442	12.01		12.12	5096.01	0.9343
BH Dinar	0.3770	0.2723	1.0211	1.0211	0.9910	0.0825		417.98	0.9280
CY Pound	1.9654	3.3895	1.1738	2.7689	240.779				

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)									
Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months	18 Months	24 Months	36 Months	48 Months	60 Months
USD	5.56	5.71	5.71	5.77	5.87				
GBP	7.25	7.19	7.25	7.31	7.38				
JPY	0.50	0.50	0.53	0.53	0.53				
DEM	3.41	3.75	3.74	3.89	4.11				
FRF	3.51	3.55	3.72	3.89	4.03				
CHF	1.80	2.03	2.05	2.09	2.27				
ITL	8.68	6.53	8.23	5.91	5.76				

Energy									
Commodity	Unit	Price	Unit	Price	Unit	Price	Unit	Price	Unit
Coffee (c/lbs)	145.17	Spot							
Sugar (c/lbs)	1829	Spot							
Cocoa (c/lbs)	306.5	Spot							
Al (3 Months)	140	Spot							
Wheat (c/lbs)	25.42	Spot							
Soya (c/lbs)	185	Spot							
Tax (c/lbs)	0	Spot							
Barley (c/lbs)	410	Spot							

Holiday Inn chain picks Cairo for its biggest hotel

CAIRO (AFP) — The Holiday Inn hotel chain has started work here this week on what will be the largest of the 2,100 hotels it owns or runs around the world.

"It will be the largest of our hotels around the world and will be completed in the year 2000," the group's Cairo public relations director, Nagla Abul Kheir, said.

"This project for the new millennium, which will cost more than \$100 million, marks Holiday Hospitality's reentry into this expanding Egyptian market in a big way," she added.

Holiday Hospitality is the new name adopted by Holiday Inn in August for its worldwide activities.

The 10-storey hotel is being built in the northern Cairo residential suburb of Heliopolis, home to both

the presidential palace and the prime minister's residence.

Surrounded by 10,000 square metres of gardens, the Holiday Inn Plaza Conference Centre Heliopolis, as the hotel will be known, will have 600 rooms and 80 luxury suites for visiting royalty and heads of state.

Two floors will be reserved for businessmen and there will be two conference halls able to cater for 1,000 people each.

The hotel chain already owns two hotels on Egypt's Red Sea coast: one at Safage, which opened in 1995, and another at Hurgada, which has just been completed.

A third hotel at Sharm Al Sheikh in the southern Sinai peninsula is due for completion in 1999.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET
HOUSING BANK CENTER - AMMAN - JORDAN
 TELEPHONE: 607117 / 607179
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 05/11/1997

	PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH	PAST 12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / E	DIV.	NO. OF TRANS.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE TRADED JD	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
N	2.340	1.680	JOR. NATIONAL BK.	E	0.00	9	8950	16261	1.82	1.81	.01-
	3.600	2.760	BANK OF JORDAN	6.2	0.00	1	200	590	2.95	2.95	-
	1.190	0.890	NIO. EAST INV. BK.	73.6	0.00	2	1250	1400	1.12	1.12	-
	2.600	2.150	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	10.3	6.11	11	7500	19401	2.58	2.59	.01+
	5.200	4.600	THE HOUSING BK.	15.2	3.80	19	143002	729106	5.06	5.10	.02+
	4.180	2.440	JOR. ZUPAT BANK	13.6	0.00	1	200	656	3.32	3.28	.04-
	1.050	0.740	JOR. GULF BANK	4.7	8.86	3	1975	1559	7.78	7.79	.01+
	4.050	3.430	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	14.4	3.38	8	2838	10075	3.57	3.55	.02-
	3.900	3.080	JOR. INV. FIN. BANK	24.5	0.00	1	1400	5334	3.82	3.81	.01-
BANK SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 236.70	CHNG: -0.02	SS	167315	784383				
	2.020	1.590	JOR. FRENCH INSUR.	5.5	7.69	1	1300	2535	1.87	1.95	.08+
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 116.93	CHNG: +0.43	1	1300	2535				
	2.050	1.550	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	9.1	5.29	25	13454	29506	1.90	1.89	.01-
	4.030	3.320	IRMO ELECTRICITY	19.7	3.47	1	100	331	3.48	3.31	.17-
	7.500	6.000	VEHLS. OWNERS FED.	7.8	4.93	1	2500	17750	7.00	7.10	.10+
	6.100	4.000	RNAB INFL. HOTELS	12.3	5.00	1	1100	4400	4.00	4.00	-
	1.150	0.930	NATL. PORTFOLIO	9	0.00	1	650	767	1.20	1.18	.02-
	1.100	0.900	NATL. EDUCATION	9	0.00	2	800	752	0.93	0.94	.01+
	2.230	1.630	UNIFIED CO.	8.3	6.32	17	26500	46385	1.73	1.74	.03+
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 110.02	CHNG: -0.09	50	45104	95860				
	4.450	3.030	JOR. CEMENT FACT.	20.7	3.57	50	62150	192039	3.09	3.08	.01-
	4.140	3.000	JOR. PHOSPHATE MINES	9.7	2.86	5	50000	175000	3.55	3.50	.05-
	7.050	5.570	ARAB POTASH CO.	14.5	3.20	11	55000	343750	6.25	6.25	-
	11.160	9.070	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	10.7	8.08	6	1350	15290	11.00	11.00	-
	7.150	5.800	JOR. MOISTURE MILLS	10.7	3.01	1	100	665	6.58	6.55	-
	4.700	3.040	ARAB PHARM. MANF.	11.5	4.77	8	6900	28911	4.19	4.19	-
	1.750	1.020	JOR. PIPES MANUF.	14.5	6.84	3	1000	1170	1.16	1.17	.01+
	3.850	2.220	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.7	10.33	2	1075	2462	2.46	2.42	.04-
	6.90	4.50	LIVESTOCK & POULTRY	10.2	0.00	3	1447	694	4.48	4.48	-
	1.330	0.710	NATIONAL STEEL IND.	9	0.00	7	1400	987	0.71	0.70	.01-
	1.200	0.510	TWENTHED. PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	7	1700	890	0.53	0.52	.01-
	0.920	0.530	JOR. ROCKWOOL INDS.	0	0.00	1	250	155	0.65	0.62	.03-
	1.070	0.810	JOR. NEW CABLE CO.	16.1	0.00	6	4400	3872	0.89	0.88	.01-
	1.330	1.080	INTL. TOBACCO	6.7	0.00	1	100	122	1.24	1.22	.02-
	1.200	0.860	UNION CH. & VEG.	49.1	0.00	3	238	256	1.11	1.08	.03-
	0.840	0.570	NIO. EAST COMPLEX	7.3	16.95	6	3700	2183	0.60	0.59	.01-
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS			INDEX: 115.80	CHNG: -0.33	160	254250	828208				
GRAND TOTAL			INDEX: 170.56	CHNG: -0.13	266	467969	1710987				
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR WEDNESDAY 05/11/1997											
	610	380	JOR. TRADE FAC.	10.4	0.00	2	1500	575	0.38	0.39	.01+
	1.550	1.060	ZARA FOR INVESTMENT	78.7	0.00	2	400	472	1.22	1.20	.02-
	800	660	UNION INV. SOF	9	0.00	2	5000	1350	0.77	0.77	-
	570	360	ARAB FIN. INVEST.	9	0.00	8	13500	5480	0.40	0.41	.01+
	940	720	AL-SHARQ INV. CO.	F	0.00	7	60200	51170	0.90	0.85	.05-
	400	280	JOR. INDUS. BANK - JENCO	9	0.00	2	2000	800	0.20	0.20	-
	650	350	NATL. TEXTILE	9	0.00	9	4500	1575	0.35	0.35	-
	750	400	NATL. MOLT. IND. - HEMICO	9	0.00	11	13500	5670	0.43	0.42	.01-
	660	580	NIOBATE PHARM. 751	E	0.00	10	27995	63	0.63	0.63	-
	640	460	INDUS. CHEM. 751	16.8	0.00	3	1497	958	0.64	0.64	-
	820	590	NATL. POULTRY	E	0.00	10	10000	6300	0.63	0.63	-
	1.020	0.720	ARAB INT. FOOD FACT.	48.2	0.00	10	14300	14285	0.95	1.00	.05+
GRAND TOTAL						76	154392	99153			

Inter through but Liverpool out of UEFA Cup

PARIS (AFP) — Inter Milan overturned their deficit against Lyon to move into the UEFA Cup third round but Liverpool failed to come back against Strasbourg in the pick of Tuesday's matches.

France, with a record seven entries in the competition, now only have Auxerre, who put out OFI Crete, and Strasbourg in the draw for the last 16.

Inter Milan erased their 2-1 defeat at San Siro with a rainswept 3-1 victory over Lyon in a match which made a nonsense of statistics.

French newspaper L'Equipe on Tuesday announced 96 per cent of teams which win 2-1 away win the tie. But mere figures are often meaningless and it was not a major surprise that the southern French outfit failed to grab the initiative.

Francesco Moriero opened the scoring in the ninth minute to make it 2-2 on aggregate.

Frenchman Benoit Caulet added Inter's second of the night soon after the re-start. But it took another goal from Moriero in the 69th minute to seal the second round tie, after Lyon's Polish defender Jasek Bak had made it all-square on aggregate in the 67th minute.

Though Ronaldo was largely kept under wraps by the French defence, Inter fully deserved their win for showing more skill and determination over the 90 minutes, despite a difficult start.

Strasbourg mounted a French blockade to withstand Liverpool's strikers as the English club's distant dreams of European glory ended in frustration despite a 2-0 victory at Anfield.

Liverpool threw everything they could muster at their opponents, who held a 3-0 lead from the first leg, and only narrowly failed to pull off one of the most famous results in their distinguished history in European competition.

It took 70 minutes for the



Athletic Bilbao's Julien Guerrero (C) is tackled by Fernando Nelson (L) of Aston Villa in the second round of the second leg UEFA Cup match at Villa Park. Aston Villa won 2-1 and go through to the third round (Reuters photo)

Reds to breach the French resistance with a penalty from Robbie Fowler on 63 minutes before German veteran Karlheinz Riedle set up a barnstorming finale with a second on 84 minutes.

Liverpool poured forward in the dying minutes but failed to grab the crucial third goal that would have sent the tie into extra time.

It was a case of deja vu for the English giants, who last year went out 3-2 to Paris St Germain after losing the Cup Winners Cup semi-final first leg 3-0 in France.

Aston Villa put their poor Premiership form behind them to move into the third round after a 2-1 victory over Athletic Bilbao at Villa Park.

Villa midfielder Ian Taylor scored his first European goal to give his side an interval lead before he set up Trinidad star Dwight Yorke for Villa's second five minutes into the second half.

Bilbao substitute Javier Gonzalez pulled a goal back with a deflected drive after 70 minutes moments after coming on to set up a nerve-jangling finale, but the English side hung on for victory.

Karlsruhe's 1-1 draw with Metz was enough to put

them through with a 3-1 aggregate win.

Metz, trailing 2-0 from the first leg, went ahead in the 10th minute through Belgium's Danny Boffin in a deserved goal for their early efforts, but Thomas Hassler equalized from a 36th minute freekick with the help of a deflection off the wall.

France had a poor night with Auxerre and Strasbourg going through but Bastia falling by the wayside, along with Metz and Lyon.

Auxerre may have lost 3-2 to OFI Crete at the Heraklion stadium, but they still managed to go into the hat for the next round after winning 3-1 in France two weeks ago.

But Corsican side Bastia, who won 3-2 at home to Steaua Bucharest with two

goals from Prince and one from Frederic Mendy, went out as Steaua's 1-0 win in the Romanian capital saw them through on away goals. And worse for Bastia, Slovenian Ermin Siljak was sent off for a threatening gesture.

In other games, Pierluigi Casiraghi, Roberto Mancini and Giuseppe Signori found the net for Italians Lazio as they beat Russians Rotor Volgograd 3-0 to beat them by the same aggregate score.

Croatia Zagreb thanked Robert Prosinecki for his two goals as they beat MTK Budapest 2-0 on the night and 2-1 on aggregate.

Other teams to go through include Holland's FC Twente Enschede and Ajax, Portugal's Braga and Austria's Rapid Vienna.



French David Regis of German soccer club Karlsruhe SC fights for the ball with Dawny Boffin (Front) of Metz. The match ends in a 1-1 draw and Karlsruhe reached the next round (Reuters photo)

Motor racing chief warns of tobacco ban dangers

PARIS (AFP) — Motor racing chief Max Mosley pledged Formula One Grand Prix racing to reduce tobacco advertising on Wednesday following Britain's decision to lift its ban.

"If this position is adopted by the European Union, the FIA is ready to introduce regulations which will reduce the visibility of tobacco sponsorship in Formula One on a worldwide basis."

International Automobile Federation (FIA) president Max Mosley said in a statement.

Otherwise, he warned, a European ban on tobacco advertising might force the sport to abandon Europe for Asia and Eastern Europe.

"There is already substantial pressure to increase the number of events in Eastern Europe, Latin America and the Asia/Pacific region," he said.

"In these regions, governments are prepared to

exempt Formula One from any restriction on tobacco advertising. These regions are, of course, growth markets for the tobacco industry, in contrast to the mature markets of Western Europe," he added.

His comments came on the same day the British government said it had dropped plans to ban tobacco sponsorship in Formula One motor racing because of its "unique position" as an international sport heavily dependent on cigarette money.

Formula One derives about \$160 million a year from the tobacco industry.

He said the FIA was willing to assist in reducing tobacco's profile at Grand Prix races by banning tobacco adverts on drivers' helmets and overalls.

Italy calls for goal-watchers

MILAN (AFP) — Italy's football League has thrown its weight behind a campaign here to introduce two new match officials to the game of soccer — a referee at each end just to watch the goalmouth.

The campaign, fuelled by the Italian media, started in the wake of Oliver Bierhoff's phantom "goal" against Juventus on Sunday.

Video footage showed the ball had crossed the line from Udinese's German striker, just before Juventus defender Ciro Ferrara's sliding clearance. But neither referee nor linesman were in a position to see the incident.

The Gazzetta dello Sport called for two new officials for every football match, one behind each goalmouth, to check whether the ball crosses the line. The official could also monitor any infringements — such as the infamous case here last season of a player who punched the ball Maradona-styled into the net without the referee noticing.

"Other sports which have far less money, media attention and mass popularity have more match officials," the paper pointed out.

"There are 12 in tennis, seven in volleyball and five in basketball and hockey."

"So why can't football introduce a 'goalmouth referee'?"

The Gazzetta, Italy's biggest-selling newspaper, claimed on Tuesday that the sport's ruling body, FIFA, is also considering the idea of extra match officials — along with a more technology-based solution to the problem.

However, the campaign took a major step forward on Wednesday, when Italian League president Franco Carraro threw his weight behind it.

"I think it's a valid idea," he told the paper. "It would avoid phantom goals like Bierhoff's and also other situations."

"But the decision would have to be down to FIFA." Highlighting what is at stake in the modern game, Carraro went on: "Up till now, the rules of football have always been the same throughout the world, for every kind of match."

"A World Cup final with a television audience of two billion people is played exactly the same way as a game between two local parish teams."



Thomas Muster

Stockholm Open Muster erupts in anger after damaging loss

STOCKHOLM (AFP) — Austrian Thomas Muster smashed his racket in a fury Wednesday after a double-fault on match point against Karol Kucera which may have doomed his chances for reaching next week's ATP World Championship in Germany.

Muster, the fifth seed at this week's \$825,000 dollar Stockholm Open, splintered his composite racket into two jagged pieces as he banged it on the court seconds after losing the second-round match 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 to the Slovakian.

Muster's dismal performance in just under two hours included being broken in the first and last games of the third set at the Kungliga Tennishallen.

The 30-year-old former World No. 1 is now in danger of missing the cut for the eight-man season wrap-up next week in Hanover, Germany.

Prior to the start of play on Wednesday at ATP Tour events in Stockholm, Moscow and Santiago, Muster stood eighth. Seven contenders were chasing

the last three spots in the field.

But in Moscow at the Kremlin Cup, French Open champion Gustavo Kuerten was beaten by Czech Daniel Vacek and fell out of the race just minutes before Muster lost in the Swedish capital.

Muster's chances may depend on how well Marcelo Rios does during a Wednesday match in Santiago.

Those who have already qualified for Hanover are Pete Sampras, Michael Chang, Patrick Rafter, Jonas Bjorkman and Greg Rusedski.

Those still chasing are: Spaniards Carlos Moya, Sergi Bruguera, Muster, Rios, Yevgeny Kafelnikov and Petr Korda.

Britain's Tim Henman was hoping to take a step into the Stockholm quarter-finals by winning a match against Sweden Magnus Gustafsson. British No. 1 Greg Rusedski remained isolated in his hotel room trying to recover from a stomach virus in time to play on Thursday against France's Lionel Roux.

Music Theory Examinations



Trinity College London

announces that the music-theory examinations will be held at the Baptist School-Amman on Saturday, November 8th, 1997 at 7:00 p.m.

For more information please call:

Freddy For Music Tel. 692696.

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	PHILADELPHIA "1"	PHILADELPHIA "2"	PLAZA	CONCORD	GALLERIA 1	GALLERIA 2	
	Jane Reno & Patrick Broyl ... in THE JAGUAR Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	007 GOLDEN EYE Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Van Damme... in DOUBLE TEAM Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD "1" Sylvester Stallone & Brigitte Nilson ... in COBRA (12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30) CONCORD "2" SLEEP WALKERS Shows: 3:30, 6:00 only	ABDOUN Walt Disney's HERCULES Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5:00, 6:30 CON AIR Shows: 8:30, 10:45	ABDOUN SCREAM Shows: 3:30, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	Watch out for the new play THE GOVERNMENT IN THE SERVICE OF PEOPLE Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dabbas

gassi comes
come back

Israel sets up West Bank army outpost, may become settlement

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Israeli defence ministry set up a new outpost in the West Bank this week which Jewish extremists plan to turn into a new settlement, officials said Wednesday.

A defence ministry statement said a unit of the army's pioneer youth corps, Nahal, moved into the new outpost at Sansana, on the southern edge of the West Bank near Hebron, on Tuesday.

Ori Silverman, chairman of the Hebron Mountain regional council that oversees settlement activities in the area, said seven mobile homes were set up at Sansana.

"This will eventually be turned into a settlement and civilians will move in as is true with most such army outposts," he told Agence France Presse.

The defence ministry, which must approve all settlement activity in the occupied terri-

ries, said it had authorised several months ago the establishment of the Sansana outpost for members of Nahal, a Hebrew acronym for "fighting pioneer youth."

"The Nahal movement is continuing to grow and has established a new community in coordination with the decision of the defence minister and army chief of staff," read a defence ministry statement.

The ministry refused to comment on Mr. Silverman's claim that Sansana would be turned into a civilian settlement.

The creation of the new Jewish enclave coincided with high-level talks in Washington at which Palestinian and Israeli officials were discussing U.S. and Palestinian demands that Israel call a "timeout" to settlement expansion.

Palestinians have made a halt to all settlement activity as

one of their principal conditions for pursuing peace talks. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has refused to halt construction in the some 140 existing settlements, but has so far refrained from authorising the creation of new Jewish enclaves in the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

But three Palestinian families from the village Ramadine next to Sansana said dozens of acres of their land had already been seized by the government in recent months to establish a full-fledged settlement at the site.

"Two months ago a notice was put up on our land that it was state property and two weeks ago bulldozers came and started to clear the land," Salim Salman Zagareh, one of the owners of the land, told Agence France Presse.

The Palestinians have petitioned a local court to halt the work and have issued a com-

plaint with the Israeli-Palestinian liaison office in Hebron, he added.

Nahal units were created largely to establish kibbutz and other settlements in strategic locations, mostly near the borders of Israel. A number of the 140 Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip and West Bank began as Nahal outposts.

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks broke down in March when Israel began construction of a Jewish settlement that sparked widespread Arab abhorrence on the hilltop of Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab east Jerusalem.

Palestinians say the expansion of settlements is designed to undermine their goal in the peace talks of creating an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with Arab east Jerusalem as its capital.



WON OR LOST? More than 20 citizens from the Fifth District Wednesday gathered at the Royal Cultural Centre to protest against the election results which show that their candidate Abdul Halim Manasir had failed in the elections although his name was among the winners as announced earlier by radio and published in the local press (Photo by Youssef 'Allan')

Sharon, Israel's indomitable hawk, down but not out over Lebanon row

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Ariel Sharon, the bulldozer of the Israeli right, was down but not out Wednesday after a stinging court ruling that he lied to his government while waging Israel's disastrous 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

"In principle, I still consider myself a possible prime minister," Mr. Sharon, currently Israel's national infrastructure minister, declared defiantly in an interview published less than 24 hours after the court ruling on Tuesday.

In that ruling, a Tel Aviv district judge threw out a libel suit by Sharon against the Haaretz newspaper over a 1991 article charging that the burly politician, as defence minister, lied to his cabinet colleagues about Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

Then-Prime Minister Menachem Begin declared at the time that the invasion was to be a limited operation against Palestinian guerrillas that would not move more than 40 kilometers into Lebanese territory.

Israeli troops, however, drove all the way to Beirut, starting a three-year occupation during which more than 600 Israeli soldiers and thousands of Palestinians and Lebanese were killed.

Sharon has steadfastly claimed that the invasion was pursued to Beirut due to developments in the field and in full consultation with Begin.

But the Haaretz article, backed up Tuesday by the court, said Sharon intended from the beginning to occupy Beirut and hid this from Begin until his troops were already in place.

Sharon denounced the court

ruling as a "tremendous mistake" and rejected calls he resign from the cabinet, saying he would appeal his case to the supreme court.

"I have fought in all Israel's wars and today I will fight against this slander ... for 20 years if I must," he said.

Sharon, a fierce hawk in dealing with the Palestinian question and a fervent supporter of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories, claimed he was a victim of political manoeuvring by the left and vowed to pursue his political career.

Tuesday's court decision was not the first setback in Sharon's political career.

In 1983, he was forced to resign as defence minister after a government enquiry held him indirectly responsible for the massacre of hundreds of Palestinian refugees in Israeli-occupied Beirut by Lebanese-Christian militiamen.

But with his solid support among the settlers and a powerful role in the central committee of Israel's main right-wing party, Likud, Sharon soon made a comeback.

He served successively as minister of housing, trade and industry in Likud-led governments of the mid and late 1980s.

When the right returned to power last year, Mr. Netanyahu reluctantly gave Sharon the specially created post of infrastructure minister after other Likud heavyweights threatened to boycott the government if Sharon was excluded from the cabinet.

This year Sharon sought but failed to move into the finance ministry when that job became temporarily free. But

Labour threatens boycott over Rabin apology

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Labour deputies have threatened to walk out of a special session of parliament next week to mark the 1995 murder of Yitzhak Rabin unless Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu uses the occasion to apologise for his alleged role in inciting the assassination.

Mr. Netanyahu is scheduled to address the Rabin memorial session on Nov. 12, the second anniversary of the late Labour prime minister's assassination according to the Jewish calendar.

Rabin was gunned down on Nov. 4, 1995, by a right-wing Jewish extremist opposed to the government's policy of returning occupied territories to the Palestinians.

The Labour Party asserts that Mr. Netanyahu, then leader of the opposition, set the stage for Rabin's slaying by organising virulent anti-

government protests at which the prime minister was branded a traitor for yielding territory to Arabs.

"Netanyahu should look the public in the eye and apologise," Labour leader Ehud Barak said.

The leader of the party's group in parliament, Ranan Cohen, wrote Mr. Netanyahu on Tuesday asking him to cancel his speech to the memorial session if he did not intend to apologise.

Mr. Netanyahu wrote in an op-ed piece published Tuesday in the Jerusalem Post newspaper that there was no call for the political right to feel any guilt for the act of "one despicable individual."

Labour officials said they informed the speaker of parliament Tuesday that they could walk out on Mr. Netanyahu's speech unless an apology was forthcoming.

Israeli minister who could be trusted to keep his word.

Mr. Netanyahu was quick to defend his minister during the latest troubles, declaring Wednesday, "I am with Sharon and I want to thank him for his contribution to the development and security of Israel."

But observers said there was little doubt that the prime minister secretly welcomed the blow to Sharon's political standing at a time when key figures in Likud are angling to find a replacement for Mr. Netanyahu.



By Yasser Abu Hilaleh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The effect of the Islamist boycott of the 1997 elections was most evident in Amman's Third District where voter turnout declined from 62 per cent in 1993 to 38.2 per cent this year.

For the first time a Muslim candidate in this district could win with less than the votes obtained by a defeated Christian candidate.

But voting was mostly politicised in the district. Christian winner, incumbent Khalil Haddadin could secure 3,134 votes almost three times the number of votes he got in 1993.

Mr. Haddadin says he won "with Muslim votes." "I am a candidate of the people not of a minority," Mr. Haddadin, a Ba'athist says.

Meanwhile, the National Constitutional Party (NCP) candidate for the same seat could only get 1,276 votes, despite his credentials as a "defender of Christian rights."

The NCP candidate for the Muslim seat in the district did not do any better. Mohammad Khair Keilani could only get 770 votes.

This confirms the inclination of the 3rd District's voters towards opposition. In 1989, the 3rd District produced opposition figures like Leith Shbeilat, Fares Nabulsi, Mansour Murad and Fakhri Kaware, and the former Prime

When tribalism takes over urbanism

Minister Taher Masri.

In 1993 Ibrahim Zeid Keilani (Islamist), Toujan Faisal and Khalil Haddadin won in the district. Mr. Masri later joined the opposition and this year's boycott call.

The ultimate battle at the district this year was the one over the Circassian seat.

Muslim seats were much easier.

All Abdul Ragheb won with 4,315 votes, Ra'ad Bakri was second with 1,306 votes, Lutfi Barghouti with 1,044 votes. The Circassian seat was won by Nayef Mowla with 5,213 and Toujan Faisal lost with 4,227, four times the figure she got in 1993.

Ms. Faisal accuses the

'One-person, one-vote formula led to reemergence of old values that played a major role in this year's elections.'

government of backing tribalism and is threatening to go to court.

There is no doubt that the 3rd District has been affected, like all other districts, by the opposition's call for boycott.

That made the tribal penetration of the cities possible where the elections were turned into an

individualistic, tribal form.

In the 2nd District for example, Sheikh Abdul Mune'm Abu Zant won the last two elections with the highest number of votes. This year, Abdul Majid Aqash, an Islamist and former member of Parliament for the Madaba District, could only get 3,167 votes.

Candidates are now winning because of their tribal affiliations contrary to past occasions when Muslim Brotherhood contenders won regardless of where they came from or what tribe they belong to.

In the Second District as well, voter turnout declined drastically. From 66 per cent in 1993 to 26.4 per cent this year.

In the second largest city, Zarqa, too, the turnout dropped from 67 per cent in 1993 elections to 29 per cent this year.

Even that turnout was only made possible by rivalry among the tribes over programmes that had nothing to do whatsoever with democracy and programmes.

An official confirms this and says that the higher turnout outside the cities is due to strong tribal bonds.

Observers note that while the 1989 elections led to a relative strengthening of civil society organisations and to weakening tribal and blood bonds, the 1993 one-person, one-vote formula led to the re-emergence of old values that played a major role in this year's elections. This, the observers say, meant that Jordan will enter the 21st century with a 13th century tool, the 13th Parliament.

Pensioner jailed three months for obsessive bird feeding

WINCHESTER (AFP) — A 60-year-old woman who repeatedly refused judicial orders to stop feeding birds in her back garden has been jailed for three months, several reports said Wednesday. Barbara Simpson, who says the birds are "her life," continued to put nuts and cheese out for the pigeons, crows and starlings and meat for foxes and badgers despite five court appearances. Winchester Crown Court heard. She was originally taken to court after neighbours complained the food for the animals — on which Simpson spends \$240 a week — had rotted, and become a public nuisance with its odour and tendency to attract rats. Defending Simpson in court, lawyer Purvaise Punwar said his client had a compulsion "she is quite incapable of mastering." "Try as she might she can't hear to see the birds she has grown to love over the years starve."

Squatters now live at the town hall

AMSTERDAM (AFP) — Several dozen squatters stunned Amsterdam councillors when they moved into the city hall during a council meeting on Wednesday. The squatters were protesting the council's decision to throw them out of a building where they have been living since 1984. They turned up during a meeting of the council's housing committee and put down beds, tables and lamps, declaring that "from now on, we will live here." Police did not immediately intervene.

Location of Redford's new movie is under wraps

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Robert Redford is keeping the exact location of his latest film, "The Horse Whisperer," under wraps. Stung by criticism that he guided too many pesky tourists to Montana's best fly-fishing streams in the movie "A River Runs Through It," Redford has taken the precaution of not identifying where he shot his new movie. The credits for "The Horse Whisperer," based on the best-selling novel, will tell audience members only that the movie was filmed "in a river valley near Livingston."

Prince Albert follows in mother's footsteps

NEW YORK (AFP) — Prince Albert of Monaco took a brief foray into his mother Grace Kelly's line of work: when he sang a duet with television actress Tyne Daly at a benefit here for the Princess Grace Foundation. Prince Albert and Daly, who starred in the popular series "Cagney and Lacey," performed an impromptu rendition of "True Love," a song Kelly sang with co-star Bing Crosby in the 1956 movie "High Society." Prince Albert told the newspaper USA Today that he "got caught off guard." "When I asked her to sing for us, she grabbed me and said: 'Only if you stay here with me.' What choice did I have?"

Spector delivers damning verdict on Spice Girls' performance

LONDON (AFP) — Yet another verdict has been given on the musical abilities of British pop phenomenon, the Spice Girls, this time by legendary record producer, Phil Spector. Spector's remarks were made an award ceremony here in London following a reference to criticism of the performances of the five-girl British band in the United States by Christian fundamentalists. "There is a big difference between the Spice Girls and porno movie. A porno movie has better music," Spector quipped.



By Rana Hussein
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Former outspoken Deputy Toujan Faisal, who Tuesday lost her bid for reelection to the 13th Parliament, Wednesday charged that the election results were rigged and called for their cancellation.

"I am calling on His Majesty King Hussein to cancel the results of parliamentary polls and to order new elections and cancel the voting cards system," Ms. Faisal, the only woman ever to be elected to Jordanian Parliament, said.

Ms. Faisal, 48, was addressing a press conference attended by local and international reporters at her home in west Amman several hours after her defeat in the polls was announced.

In Tuesday's elections, Ms. Faisal lost to former ambassador and senior information

Toujan Faisal blames loss on vote rigging

Mowla says former deputy attacked all good things in Jordan

official Nayef Mowla, her sole competitor for the Third District Circassian seat, with less than 1,000 votes.

She won 4,227 votes against Mr. Mowla's 5,213 votes.

"These figures should tell you that there is something wrong with the election results," Ms. Faisal said.

"I am not against Mr. Mowla, but he is not so well-known a public figure as to have all these votes," she charged.

Mowla responds

Mr. Mowla yesterday responded to Ms. Faisal's charges by stating that, although she is a public figure, "she is known to attack everything good in this country and its institutions."

"Ms. Faisal's statements promote a negative image about the country, and shows us all as corrupt people, which is not the case," Mr. Mowla told the Jordan Times.

He added: "Ms. Faisal did not have a political agenda, nor can she boast about any achievements in the past four years in Parliament."

"On the other hand," she said, "I had an agenda which was known to the people, and they decided on this (elections) accordingly."

Allegations of fraud

Ms. Faisal produced documents which she alleged were forged and promised to produce them in court to prove irregularities in the voting process.

She claimed that the law was not observed and that forged document and identification cards without photos were used by voters and "in other stations some people were able to cast their ballots only with a birth certificate."

"I am not going to sit idle by over this," she said. "I am going to the United Nations to contest the election results there," added Ms. Faisal, who was one of 17 women who ran for Parliament and lost.

Ms. Faisal claimed that she was afraid for her safety and was planning to call on international human rights and women's organisations to protect her and her children. She did not say who and what she



Toujan Faisal

feared, only pointing out to her outspokenness as a possible reason for such threats. "I am not against anyone, I am just calling for real democracy with the people's power and fighting corruption," she said. "This (loss) is my punishment for calling for democracy," she told

reporters.

Also during the press conference, Ms. Faisal, who announced that she was planning to form a political party, said she is writing a book, in which she will describe the "harassment" she was "subjected to" before reaching Parliament in 1993.

Sudanese talks go ahead as U.S. imposes embargo

NAIROBI (AFP) — Peace talks between the Khartoum regime and southern rebels entered their second week in Nairobi Wednesday as the United States slapped an economic embargo on Sudan.

A White House statement said the order freezing Sudanese assets in the U.S., prohibiting U.S. trade with Sudan and barring financial transactions would increase pressure on Khartoum to make a serious effort in the talks here.

Kenyan Foreign Minister Kalonzo Musyoka, who is mediating, defined "the major bone of contention" as the separation of state and religion and self-determination for southern Sudan. The negotiators, with Foreign Minister Ali Osman Mohammad Taha leading the government team and the second-in-command of the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), Salva Kiir, heading the rebel side, are exploring steps to end Sudan's 14-year-old civil war.

The conflict is estimated to have cost a million lives in Africa's largest country. The rebels, who control

most of the south after a 10-month offensive, are demanding autonomy for the southern, who are mostly Christian or animist, and an end to Islamic Sharia law.

Rebel sources told Agence France Presse that they had finished presenting their case, and that the government side would now present its view.

The new U.S. sanctions, which add to measures that restricted U.S. exports and visas to Sudanese officials, also punish the Islamic regime of General Omar Al Bashir for sponsoring terrorism, a charge Khartoum denies.

In the Sudanese capital, Junior Foreign Minister Mustafa Osman Ismail denounced the U.S. move as "a form of the aggression and injustice the American administration practises against states which have independent attitudes and are unwilling to succumb to its tutelage," state radio reported.

Mr. Ismail also said it was a continuation of "the American role in support of some neighbouring nations in their aggression against Sudan."